

May 25, 2012, 9:00 AM-12 noon.  
WLU 1230 Shlegel Centre.

Present: Yasaman Munro, Aldea Mulhern, Michel Desjardins, Ruby Ramji, Paul Crowe,  
Richard Mann, Patricia Dold, Michael Wilkinson.

Regrets: Brenda Anderson, Darlene Juschka.

## **1. Welcome/Bienvenue**

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

## **3. Adoption of the minutes of the March 2011 meetings of the Executive Committee/ Adoption des procès-verbal des reunions du conseil du Mai 2011**

Motion to accept minutes: Richard Mann; Aldea Mulhern seconded. Passed with one  
abstention.

## **4. Business arising from the Minutes/Suivis aux procès-verbal**

Ruby will attend CCSR meeting in Darlene's absence.

History of CSSR: can we send out to all grad advisors – ask someone to do an MA on  
this?

Michael and Richard have boxes of materials, don't know what to do with them.  
Maybe learn from CSBS who have dealt with the same problem.

Randi Warne and Paul Bowlby could perhaps help, someone should interview either or  
both, in such a project.

To do list at next meeting: brainstorm this idea.

## **5. Reports/Rapports**

### **5.1 President/Président**

Darlene Juschka (via Skype)

All volunteer work on the executive needs to be recognized, we return to same group again  
and again, need members to step up. Michael thanked for his loads of work as  
membership secretary. Many thanks too to Michel Desjardins and Mavis Fenn.

Website: need more involvement from members. Young ones are there, but others need  
to get web savvy.

We need to make known to media that we have a large body of experts – use website for this; tell media we are here because they are not finding us and will not seek us.

Book Prize, follow up: two books submitted so far – so push this!!

Darlene calling for people to contact her – ask for volunteers at AGM.

CAUT's archive campaign: loss of knowledge in many areas – we should get behind this.

We need to stay within a democratic model; we can act together on our shared concerns. As Universities become fragmented by managerial model, offer support to young academics, for example, for whom the bar is getting raised higher and higher. Unions losing power.

Can't we as a society do something in solidarity?

Suggestions for workshops – see report

-professional D.

-research -- alternatives to SSHRC?

-method.

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Discussion on report:

Michel Desjardins will read report at AGM and provide Darlene with feedback, suggestions re: website, which will be passed back to Darlene.

Michel Desjardins initiates discussion: how to get enough but not too much info about each person on there, so media can find us. AAR has had success in this. List of experts at home institution.

How to get our site to the top of the list in a computer search?

Michael Wilkinson's institution's site (Religion in Canada Institute at Trinity Western) comes up high if you search religion in Canada.

How can we help young scholars? So many have no idea about us, the corporation.

CCSR?

Michael: research funding alternatives: SSRHC is tied into University research offices, funding formula allows Univ to fund research office.

Pivot: is a database of grants that research offices have – can we get a subscription to PIVOT? AAR works with a consortium in UK of all kinds of scholars – should we ask to join this consortium to facilitate networking?

## **5.2 Secretary/Sécretaire**

Patricia Dold

Two issues: Minutes—how detailed should they be?

Can be minimalist. Remember AGM minutes go public on website. Just report received. Then action items. Other things like president's reports, treasurer reports contain details we don't necessarily want public.

Our initiating insistence /enforcement of membership fees: when and how to do this? Past practice of non-enforcement by WLU and CSSR for meeting presentations is contributing to delinquency.

People are confused about Congress fees vs CSSR fees.

Some societies have you pay your membership at Congress.

Feedback to Secretary: Appreciation for email notes to list serve.

## **5.3 Treasurer/Trésorier**

Richard Mann

Different reports – one for Exec, one for AGM, one to answer MD's question about how low our membership can go.

See reports!

Cost for last year's reception—Approximately \$914. We generate more revenue if Congress attendance is up, but all still depends on local charges. WLU is charging more than Frederickton.

Budget for this year's reception: \$1000.

In next two years, we can assess the reception, if it is too expensive.

CCSR – has not cashed our \$2000 cheque as of April 26. Also they did not invoice us for our membership, instead just wrote and said you haven't paid: ASK CCSR ABOUT THIS -- timely and actual invoicing and cashing of our membership dues for SR and CCSR /Federation dues which goes to CCSR.

AGM travel more expenses higher because we were out east; this is typical. SSHRC rules have changed. Can still hold over amounts, but they will deduct the hold over amount from the following year. When we are in the center of the country, we spend less.

Still have about \$6000 from before rule change.

Maybe we should change our rule re: travel must be at least 500 kms.

TO DO: Change this rule re: travel grant distance.

Ruby will remind this year's participants to apply, many students from Ottawa and from BC.

We can raise it at AGM this year, but money issues can't be changed so quickly. So motion is needed at AGM.

We have \$4300; if students from within 500 kms submit and we have that money after paying other's expenses back, we can use the short distance claims to spend the rest so that we do not get less for next year at Victoria.

Our budget is pretty accurate: we spent what was budgeted with a little wiggle room. But, we about at our expense limit. For any major new expenses, we'll have to think about more carefully because we have to tap some of our other resources (investment income, for example, or once we have spent that \$6000 left over from SSHRC grants, what then?).

On the books total funds show, we are doing fine. Investments, one is not earning much. To Do: ask Peter Beyer/Ken McKendrik if we should change this one investment which is earning very little.

Projecting a surplus this year of \$300.

What to do with our money in the bank? SSHRC has not dropped the hammer. Maybe we should consider spending this on a project or two? Or save it expecting that we will need it for future travel expenses etc.

Discussion:

Richard: since we are now near our break-even point, we may well need to tap into investments

Michael: we could use the interest income to help our members.

Richard, or draw down the investment a bit, if growth is good, and not reduce the net worth.

Ruby: reduce student membership fees.

Michel: use investment money in technology, website, to help us help members.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report to Executive: Aldea Mulhearn; Paul Crowe seconded. Passed.

AGM report: Motion to accept: Ruby Ramji, Michael Wilkinson seconded. Passed.

Item 3 What is our break even point? Richard's best guess:

Of a \$90 membership, how much goes to dues like Federation, SR, IAHR? How much is left for us? On full members: we make about double what we have to pay.

We need about 125 members, 60% full.

138 at 50% full.

But even when we fall below, because membership year is calendar and fiscal is not, things tend to balance out enough.

Still and therefore, these numbers are a loose guide.

Michael: remember too, old membership #s were inflated, as shown by the fact that membership fee income reported back then was far less than now, even though membership # reported was higher than now. Now, in last 3 years, we have a much more accurate idea about numbers.

Richard: also CSSR was paying dues for unpaid members who were still counted as members. So we were paying for nothing!

Tradition was, hold about one year's expenses, so that if there is a disaster, we can manage.

In our account, now we have more than we need to cover coming expenses. We can invest part of what is in the account now with no worries.

Michel: GIC is a good idea, which we can ask for it whenever to pay for a special thing, such as our support of \$5000 to IAHR for the Toronto conference.

Michel: TO DO: ask members what we can do to serve them better, how can we use the CSSR money to serve them.

Michel Desjardin offers thanks to Richard Mann, and gratitude for his willingness to serve a second term.

#### **5.4 Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions**

Michael Wilkinson

1. current: 126 plus two very recent renewals 128.
2. not such a real drop from 2009 at 216 members, fee income was less because the accounting was wrong.

Next membership secretary should not freak out about the apparent loss of members. We have had to retrain ourselves and our members in new system.

Keep two files:

1. paid membership list for Sage
2. running list of people who have been members over the last 5 years

Students: 30% this year

No more Bulletin, working on website. Has done lots of work with Yasaman. Single data base? Who is in charge of master list? How to deal with larger pool of friends vs members?

Better to do a month end paypal report, make this available to membership secretary and recording secretary on a cloud or google docs.

This is all fine and good, but we do still get cheques, which perhaps should go first to the Treasurer and from there new names should be sent to membership secretary.

Much greater clarity in process now than when Michael started his term.

Yasaman: need ways for people to be drawn to the website. A video welcome from president? A video montage from the conference, to show what it is like?

Paul: Mission statement? To say we are about supporting our scholars etc.. Join to help us support this work.

#### **5.5 Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations**

Michel Desjardins

President: Ruby Ramji

Membership Secretary: Arlene McDonald

Member at Large (Undergraduate essay): Brenda anderson  
Member at Large (Programme Chair): Joe Velaidum and Alison Marshall

### **5.6 2012 Programme Chairs/Présidences pour le programme**

Rubina Ramji and Alison Marshall

Big job!! Great local help from Yasaman Munro and Michel Desjardins.

15 drop out; several internationals had passport problems.

Religion in Canada is becoming more prominent: we are the experts in this area.

At the same time, we do not want to do only religion in Canada.

Catering all organized by Yasaman Munro and Michel Desjardins

AV in every room – big help.

Website for posting changes to program.

Issues:

Spousal fee? We do not have one. See under #7.

So many who present are not paying because of our rule re only one panelist or round-table participant needs to be a member. Is this fair?

Ruby: all should have to pay. TO DO: PUT ON Next Exec Meeting agenda.

if you belong to another Congress society, then show proof, and no fee or same as spousal, and you don't get journal.

Co-sponsorships get us benefits from Federation.

We need a local organizer for Victoria – need a name to submit to Federation after this Congress meeting.

### **5.7 Graduate Student Member at Large/ Conseiller étudiant**

Aldea Mulhern

Problems getting liaison at each site, so facebook has been useful for communicating.

Aldea has been communicating about essay contests, sending reminders.

Numbers for essays strong.

Lots of graduate participation at meeting.

Luncheon: this year, on distance and online education.

Website: want to do video of luncheon, but difficult when luncheon happens in a large open space.

## **5.8 Technology Liaison/Liaison de la Technologie**

Yasaman Munro

Website is flexible, so it is easy to incorporate new things.

Challenges: reconciling membership and mailing lists.  
Get the membership status indicator working properly.

Goals: FAQ section.  
New software for program  
NEED A LOGO: TO DO: DISCUSS THIS.

Need Job descriptions for website.  
Archive project

Encourage people to join and participate in website.  
Richard: even AAR website is mostly open to everyone.

Yasaman: We can develop on-line abstract submission, which will only work if you are a paid member – this would make program organizers immensely because they will not get varied formats, missing information.

Ruby: Job descriptions MAL; Yasaman: need a template

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

See reports from Paul Crowe and Brenda Anderson.

Pat and Paul will announce winners at AGM  
Richard Mann needs mailing addresses, will confirm via email. Ruby will send to Richard a letter to send with the cheques, so they know to contact program chairs.

Michael: should we post on the website the winners? With their permission? Or just an abstract and contact information?

Michael's suggestion: Let's publish name, title, and abstract and if it gets published, a link.

**CCSR:** Michel will speak to this.



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

Alain Bouchard

SQER is in trouble, low participation – should we go back to old model? Before, we ended up with two solitudes. Patrice Brodeur, President, will discuss this with us in the coming year.

### **6. Local arrangements rep Congress 2012**

Yasaman Munro and Michel Desjardins

We are ready!

### **7. Other business/ Varia**

Include another membership category, spousal at rates of \$20, and \$40, depending on status of spouse.

And issue of required membership for all who are submitting/acceptance.

All panel and roundtable members must be members:

Could pay associate membership rate – no journal.

Recommend at AGM: all will be required to be members. Michel will speak to it. Exec will figure out categories, type of membership.

Motion to this effect: Ruby Ramji, Richard Mann seconds: That all presenters at Congress must be paid members. Passed.

**Reps to Federation:** Richard or Peter Beyer usually go since they are in Ottawa. No cost for flights etc. This year, it was in Montreal. It is very bureaucratic, what provosts and Deans want the Federation to do for them. Some of the panels are good and worthwhile for one of our members there.

**Richard's suggestion:** if meeting is outside of Ottawa and there is no one local who could go, then do not send anyone. Minutes we receive are comprehensive. When are urgent changes in their rules, etc., then notice is given in advance. But Richard has not seen such an occurrence in 4 years.

**Re: Server failures:** If it happens again, we will change servers.

Website improvement fund as budget line in future: to include amount for tech stuff/ website, French translation services.

**8. Adjournment/Ajournement**

Adjourn: Michael Wilkinson, Richard Mann seconds. Passed.

Submitted by Patricia Dold

May 30, 2013