

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA
RELIGION
EXECUTIVE MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE D'EXECUTIVE**

**CALGARY, ONTARIO
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
MAY 28TH, 9:00AM-12:00PM**

AGENDA/ L'Order du Jour

Present: Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton), Alyshea Cummins (Ottawa), Saliha Chattoo (Toronto), David Feltmate (Auburn), Bethany Berard (Winnipeg), Arlene MacDonald (Texas), Heather Shipley (Ottawa-via Skype).

Regrets: Samiksa Munro, Marybeth White, Brenda Anderson, Catherine Caufield, Peter Beyer

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

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

MOTION: approve the agenda.

Moved by Catherine Caufield; Seconded by Arlene MacDonald

In Favour: 7

Motion Carried Unanimously

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the (date) meeting of the 2015 Executive Meeting/ /
Adoption du procès verbal de l'assemblée d'executive (2015)**

MOTION: accept the minutes

Moved by Arlene MacDonald; Seconded by Heather Shipley

In Favour: 7

Motion Carried Unanimously

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

None.

5. Reports/Rapports

5.1. President/Présidente (Ruby Ramji)

- Ruby is presiding over her last meeting President, but will continue to support the CSSR Executive as past President. She thanked all of the current Executive members for the fantastic job they have done serving the society (report circulated).

5.2. Recording Secretary (Heather Shipley)

- There are 498 newsletter members and friends
- Receiving great feedback on the weekly newsletters
- We need more student involvement: build up a Student Section in the Newsletter
- Monitor and add more information to the CSSR Facebook page

- Revitalize the CSSR Twitter account
- Create a CSSR e-mail account – Ruby agreed to do it.

5.3. Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions (Arlene MacDonald)

- CSSR membership is higher this year in relation to last year
- Submissions did not increase: no need to have members pay their dues at a later time than the paper submission date. We should tie the membership dues date to online paper submission date.
- Two lists are required: SAGE requires a list membership list that is different from Congress membership list, which requires a lot of work still.
- Can we automatically tie membership payment to submissions on the website?
- We should create a new PayPal account: cost is \$250.00: Bethany agreed to do it. Samiksa will need to put up the new PayPal account on the CSSR website.
- Can the CSSR website provide archived data from previous years?
- We should be sending out SAGE membership number through the CSSR membership on the website: This can be done by adding a box to the membership page on the website, and we can then put in the membership numbers that are sent to us from SAGE. Ask Samiksa how to go about doing this.

5.4. Treasurer/Trésorier (Bethany Berard)

- Studies in Religion journal prices are increasing. Although they are asking for increases from all CSSR members (regular members \$8.00 and student members \$7.00), the Executive agrees to only increase regular full member dues.

MOTION: This is a notification that CSSR will increase Full membership fees by \$10.00 and full Associate membership fees by \$5.00 in the 2017 year.

Moved by Arlene MacDonald; Seconded by David Feltmate

In Favour: 7

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- 2015 IAHR dues were much higher due to low CAN dollar (2.40 Euro=\$3.50 CAN)

MOTION: to make the following budgetary item changes:

1. AGM Reception will be cut from \$,2000 to \$1,800
2. Student Representative and Student/Unwaged Executive member will be cut from \$1,500 to \$1,000 to cover costs (students and unwaged participants can also apply for CSSR travel funds)
3. Create a new budget line for Website Administration for \$700 annually

Moved by David Feltmate; Seconded by Catherine Caufield

In Favour: 7

Motion Carried Unanimously.

5.5. Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations (Peter Beyer absent)

- Ruby Ramji informed Executive of the following nominations for President; Membership Secretary; Member at Large; Recording Secretary

President: Nomination: Heather Shipley

Membership Secretary: Nomination: Catherine Caufield

Member at Large: Nomination: Arlene MacDonald

Recording Secretary: Nomination: Open

5.6.2016 Programme Chair/ Responsable du programme 2016 (David Feltmate)

- Marybeth dealt with Congress, and handled all e-mails: she did an excellent job
- LACs were great: they took care of room allocations
- Samiksa made sure the program was updated regularly on the CSSR website
- 84 papers will be presented at this year's meeting
- There are currently 2 unchaired sessions
- The Call For Papers should remain on December 1 yearly but will allow submissions to come in until December 15. Inform AGM of this date.
- LACs for Ryerson meeting are required: will ask Joyce Smith and Tony Michaels if they are available
- THE CFP should clearly state that **no** Travel Visa assistance is available by the Executive (we cannot write letters for them to get a Visa) and that there are no travel funds available for international presenters.
- Interest has come from international participants who cannot afford to attend the CSSR annual meeting to participate in another way. Executive will bring to the AGM the idea of offering one Roundtable session via Skype at the next annual meeting. Participants will pay for their own A/V costs. This session will only be for international participants (not for participants in Continental North America). Ask IAHR if they would offer to subsidize the A/V costs

5.7.MAL Graduate Students/Étudiants des études supérieures (Saliha Chattoo)

- Thanks to Marybeth to coordinating the Graduate Luncheon, the LACs and the CSSR graduate representative
- The Graduate Luncheon speaker works for an NGO and graduate from University of Calgary. The topic is on navigating non-academic jobs. This Luncheon has no costs for the CSSR as the organizer was awarded a grant from the University of Calgary's Religious Studies Department.
- Saliha Chattoo wants to create a new voluntary position at universities: these positions will be titled "Local Student Ambassador". This position would allow for better communication between the Graduate MAL and Religious Studies programs at participating universities. Saliha will create a Facebook page for the Student Ambassadors to communicate with each other.

5.8.Communications Liaison/ Liaison de la Communication (Samiksa Munro absent)

- Samiksa Munro submitted a written report, presented by Ruby Ramji
- The CSSR website continues to run smoothly and is always evolving to meet Executive and Member needs
- The CSSR Members and Friends list currently consists of more than 530 people. To be on this mailing list, one does not have to be a CSSR member – just create an account on the CSSR website.

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

- Ruby Ramji announced the winners for the Undergraduate and Graduate Essay Competition. Received only 5 undergraduate essay submissions; 3 MA essay submissions and 9 PhD submissions. Ruby proposes more marketing for essay prizes as students did not seem to know about it, until the deadline was extended and professors were contacted to get students to submit papers. Ruby thinks the new Local Student Ambassador positions can greatly assist in this.
- Remove the requirement for a hardcopy of the essay to be sent to the President on

all the CSSR website Essay submission sections. There is no need for it anymore.

CSSR Undergraduate Essay Winners:

- BA First Place Winner: Sarah Gorman, Carleton University
“Reconciling Moral Autonomy with Submission to Religious Law”
- BA Second Place Winner: Matthew Malone, McGill University
“Sexual Discourse in Contemporary Radical Sunni Islamist Thought”

CSSR Graduate Essay Winners:

- M.A. Award Recipient: Sarah L. Veale, University of Toronto
“Refutatio Romana: The Political Dimensions of Religious Alterity in Tacitus’ Histories 5”
- PhD Award Recipient: Anthony Scott, University of Toronto
“Bibles in the Badlands: Colonial Dinosaur discoveries and the Making of Canadian Origin Myths”

CSSR Book Prize

- The CSSR Book Prize Committee, chaired by the Past President, Peter Beyer, received 15 book submissions.
Winner: **Phyllis D. Airhart**, *A Church with the Soul of a Nation*,

8. Other Business/ Varia

None.

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l’assemblée