

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / REUNION DU CONSEIL
CONGRESS AT UBC, VANCOUVER BC
MEETING AGENDA
JUNE 1, 2019 | 10:00–12:30 PST**

Present: Ruby Ramji, Ted Malcolmson, Paul Gareau, Heather Shipley, Michelle Folk, Sharday Mosurinjohn, Roxanne Korpan, Catherine Caufield, and Qamer Hameed

Regrets: Samikṣā Munro, Paige Thombs, Alyshea Cummins, and Arlene Macdonald

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

Start time: 10:00

2. Accept Agenda/ Accepter l'ordre du jour

MOTION: *Accept the agenda.*

Moved: Ruby Seconded: Catherine

Motion carried unanimously

3. Minutes/rendu d'une reunion – March 9, 2019

MOTION: *Accept the minutes.*

Moved: Ruby Seconded: Ted

Motion carried unanimously

4. Reports/ Rapports

i. Treasurer/Trésorier (Ted Malcolmson)

Update

Account Status: 2018-19

Income

Community Account: \$33,719.25

Investment Account: \$65,024.16

Investment Gain: \$1,548.97

Membership Dues: \$9,717.00

Total Income: \$13,600.97

Income: Increased the amount taken from investments as was voted at last year's AGM, and to compensate for the relatively high deficit last year. Membership dues fluctuate in response to the location of the AGM. The BMO investment income took a dive.

Expenses

Website Hosting: \$641.93

Executive Travel: \$2,400.00

Total Expenses: \$19,038.70

Deficit: \$6,000

Expenses: The AGM travel budget has returned to 5,500 from 6,500 because the three-year increase to that amount has elapsed. The Executive travel has increased from 1,000 to 3,000 based on the vote at last year's AGM. We cannot foresee the costs of catering and accommodation from universities at Congress. Major cost changes: website, executive travel, AGM, and student travel and accommodation.

Departmental Facilitation for Congress

University of Toronto Religion Department approached the CSSR to help them book rooms for Congress. This is due to rules that only associations are capable of making bookings. This puts CSSR in difficult position in brokering space bookings (i.e., late charges on catering, labour from executive as liaisons, favouritism, etc.). Ask CSSR president to put it on their agenda as a part of the structural issues with Congress. How do we best support our members without having to take on the brunt of the cost and labour?

Discussion

We need to cut costs: always \$6,000 deficit.

BMO investment shortcomings: do we look for different companies? Ted will contact banker to see for different options within BMO.

We can cut costs from president's reception budget. Incidental costs from universities are an issue. Ask universities for cost-breakdown for services. We cannot take from investment principle. We need to put in a cushion to absorb incidental costs.

MOTION: Accept proposed budget.

Moved: Ruby Seconded: Sharday

Motion carried unanimously

ii. Membership Secretary/Secrétaire des membres (Catherine Caufield)

Update

Current Membership 113 total; 52 regular and 44 students.

Regular membership is decreasing (down from 133 in 2018). Lost senior members as well as members without CSSR support. Need to engage mid-range academics and students.

Discussion

How do we increase membership?

Need to attract academics in LTA and sessional positions. Debate: Inclusivity in all activities where student talks and sessions should be open to all participants. Student spaces, however, need to remain exclusive to students to guarantee privacy.

Suggestions for Improving Membership Engagement

- Could duplicate student luncheon? Or presenter act as keynote.
- Networking and developing like at Ryerson University Congress (2017).
- Panels: ask membership for the types of panels they want to see.
- Solicit special panels, roundtables, and workshops from CSSR academics.
- Call for papers more tailored like the AAR.
- Generating special themes for each Congress.
- Job market: professional development for a growing body of LTA and sessional teachers

iii. Programme Chair/Présidence pour le programme (Michelle Folk/Qamer Hameed/Paige Thombs (LAC))

Update:

Special thanks to Paige Thombs for assistance at UBC.

High number of applications with fewer withdrawals; withdrawals were made with regret to scheduling conflicts. Many panels where the *author meet the critics*. Finding chairs is always a challenge. Trouble with AV regarding logging out. We also need a CSSR email address to accommodate programming work and keeping a digital record. Ruby mentions one made for Twitter account.

Breakdown of Events:

- 54 individual papers with 56 presenters (2 papers are being presented by 2 people): grouped into 19 panels.
- 8 panels, 9 roundtables, and 1 workshop
- Institutional affiliation: 43 institutional affiliations, 2 independent scholars, and 1 high school student.

- This accounted for 98 people in total participating and membership status was 35 paid regular members, 1 paid associate member, 3 paid student members, and 59 N/A as of January.
- Room bookings: President's reception at *the Pit in the Nest*; meeting spaces at *Food, Nutrition, and Health Building*; graduate luncheon held at *Ideas Lounge*.
- Craigie Lecturer is Dr. Marvin Sweeney, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Claremont School of Theology, hosted by the CSBS. CSSR will be hosting in 2020 and will need to begin planning in the coming months.

Discussion

No further discussion or questions. Great work!

iv. Graduate Students/Étudiants des études supérieures (Roxanne Korpan)

Update:

No change to the student ambassador program. We have 17 students. It is low commitment and good experience. There is a lot of work organizing and the student ambassadors help with keeping in touch with student body. Roxanne is happy to have served as Graduate Student Member-at-Large for the past two years.

Graduate Student Luncheon

Graduate student luncheon will take place at the UCLL Ideas Lounge from 12:15–14:00 on 2 June, 2019. Dr. Pamela Klassen (UofT) is leading a conversation about academic writing. Thank you to Qamer and Michelle for their work.

Student Professional Headshots

Having professional headshots in collaboration with Marie-Josée Blanchard from CCSR. Asking if there were a small honorarium for Brigidda Bell, photographer. Maybe \$50. This program is very popular and the photographs are amazing.

Discussion

Klassen's presentation on academic writing and the breakdown of the types of writing is very useful to members of the CSSR who are no longer students. There are different types of work beyond the degree and we should be part of the conversation.

Vision Statement supporting Sessional Teachers and LTAs

We should also be having a discussion on the question of quality of work/life balance for sessional teachers. It has become a reality that we cannot ignore. We should talk more deeply about how academics can break through the job market. Maybe having a panel or workshop next year reaching out to government and NGO. Having honest, open conversations. How do we make a statement of support for our students or a vision statement? Do we need a motion? The president will undertake this effort. It is her prerogative.

v. President/Présidente (Heather Shipley)

Update

Thanked the executive for time and efforts in helping the CSSR. Thanking Samikṣā for the work she does on the website, especially in a difficult year. Thinking about the role of the CSSR in promoting and supporting our academic field. How do we remain active in that support?

Centre for Religious Literacy

This centre out of McGill University will be present at our AGM. They will speak about their project on Religious Literacy education for national dissemination. We can think of a formal partnership with CSSR, and consider financial and political implications. Does the CSSR want to do this?

Pros, Cons, and Questions

These types of connections will increase our profile, and connect us with authors and researchers in the study of religion. But this comes with a financial request, which would be another line-item in our budget. As a society, do we want to development of CCRL guidelines? We need to consult with the CCSR to see if this is something beneficial for all learned societies in the study of religion.

Questions: What that partnership looks like? Are going to take a stance on content? How do we make partnerships and connect with authors and researchers? What are the important areas we want to include? We can help facilitate and give feedback, but we cannot take a didactic role.

We need to communicate with members of the CSSR to gauge interest and in consultation. We can communicate with government agencies and NGOs. And we can look at the members from the Centre for Religious Literacy to be invited guests of the CSSR next year at Congress 2020.

Motion: *CSSR would develop a relationship with CCRL to promote the project through communication and publicity. The structure of the relationship will include acknowledgment of CSSR collaboration.*

Moved: Qamer Seconded: Catherine

Motion carried unanimously

vi. Past President/ Ancienne presidente (Ruby Ramji)

Update

CSSR Book Prize Committee

Committee Members: Ruby Ramji, Qamer Hameed, and Michelle Folk. 12 books were nominated this year. Our winner for 2018 is Dr. Lori Beaman for her book entitled, "Deep Equality in an Era of Religious Diversity." She cannot attend, but is honoured with the award. Any books written from 2017 to 2019 can be re-submitted for 2019–2020. Arlene has already volunteered to be on the 2019 Book Prize committee. Books submitted for 2019 are for first-book published. Books for the 2019 Prize are due to the Past President by December 31, 2019. The 2019 book prize will be awarded at the 2020 annual meeting.

CSSR Executive Nominations

Positions will open at the CSSR AGM. We need to post the opening positions on our listserv and website so members can know what are available. These positions are for everyone. All nominations can be sent directly to Ruby or declared on the floor of the AGM.

The nominations received thus far:

- Recording Secretary: Paul Gareau
- Membership Secretary: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme
- Member at Large: Alyshea Cummins
- Graduate Student Member at Large: Sana Patel

Discussion

No discussion.

vii. Recording Secretary/Secrétaire archiviste (Alyshea Cummins/Paul Gareau)

Update

Paul has been helping with notes for Alyshea throughout 2019. It has been fun and will continue to be. Alyshea remains in charge of the CSSR Twitter account. So please send to her information on CSSR activities: #CSSRnews @CSSR_executive

Discussion

No discussion.

viii. Communications Officer/Agente des communications (Samīkṣā Munro)

Update

Nothing has changed too much since our last executive meeting in March 2019.

- We ran into issues with our website, which was being bombarded with thousands of hits. We moved our entire website from HostPapa to Bluehost.
- Sunflower is running smoothly. Catherine streamlined the SAGE membership transfer. Thank you for your work.
- CSSR weekly newsletter is working great through Mailchimp. We have 548 people signed up and we can see who opens their emails to read the newsletter. Thanks for using this platform. But Twitter and Facebook are also being used for dissemination. Thanks to send info to her, Alyshea for Twitter, and Ruby for Facebook.
- “SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER” option is still on our website’s home page as well as under the “Connect” menu. This includes friends of the CSSR: non-paid members.

Discussion

No discussion.

ix. Student Essays/Essai étudiant (Arlene Macdonald/Sharday Mosurinjohn)

Update

Essay Winners for 2018–2019

- MA: Connor Thompson (University of Regina)
- PhD: Lucie Robathan (McGill University)
- BA: Justin Bulicz (Dalhousie University)
- BA: Suzanne Bonfils (McGill University)

Policy:

There were requests for multiple entries in this year’s contest. Website will be updated to indicate that students can only submit one paper per competition.

Motion: *All essay submissions are one paper per student.*

Moved: Ruby Seconded: Qamer

Motion carried unanimously

Discussion

Some of them papers were outside the parameters of pagination. We need a word count prohibition: return to sender for reprint. Arlene spoke of a minimum and maximum word count. Suggested for undergraduate —min: 2500 | Max: 3500. Work must be submitted in Word Doc with the right pagination. Do we change the guidelines for all?

We need a revision for the regulations on word count total, Word format, and length. Essays will not be accepted not following these guidelines. If your paper does not meet the requirements, you are not eligible.

We do not need to vote on this item.

5. Additional items/ Des articles supplémentaires

A discussion was raised by Catherine on the CSSR constitutional amendment regarding *Article VI: Conflict of Interest*. She notes that this is unnecessary for two reasons: 1) people who want to volunteer time should be allowed to; 2) is the relationship between CSSR and CCSR a conflict of interest that necessitates a legislative amendment.

The response was that CCSR and CSSR are not always working to the same ends. CSSR is an independent learned society who is responsible to its membership. The CCSR is an umbrella corporation whose responsibility is to the interests of many learned societies. The CSSR interests need to remain separate. And there has been conflict in the past over the SR distribution and cost, and organizing luncheons, and Craigie lectures. The CSSR has a vote at the table in order to vote for or against decisions from the CCSR. This is not a

contentious issue: we just affirming our difference and equality of one association amongst others without favouritism. This speaks to the confusion of roles between CCSR and CSSR.

6. Next teleconference/ Prochaine teleconference

The next teleconference for the executive will be in the Fall 2019. Standby for details.
Thank you for your engagement.

7. Adjournment/ Adjournement

Moved: Ruby Seconded: Catherine

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 12:51