

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / REUNION DU CONSEIL
VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA
MAY 30, 2020; 10AM-12PMEST**

Present: Alyshea Cummins, Heather Shipley, Qamer Hameed, Ruby Ramji, Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, Ted Malcolmson, Yasaman Samiksa Munro, Michelle Folk, Sana Patel, Sharday Mosurinjohn, and Paul Gareau.

Regrets: Sana Patel, David Koussens

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

Start time: 10:08 EDT

2. Accept Agenda/ Accepter l'ordre du jour

MOTION: *Accept the agenda.*

Moved: Alyshea Cummings

Seconded: Ruby Ramji

Motion carried unanimously

3. Minutes/rendu d'une reunion – March 8, 2020

MOTION: *Accept the minutes.*

Moved: Alyshea Cummings

Seconded: Qamer Hameed

Motion carried unanimously

4. Reports/ Rapports

Programme Chair/Présidence pour le programme (Michelle Folk/Qamer Hameed (LAC))

Congress Details:

Congress 2020 was scheduled for Western University in London with the theme of *Bridging Divides: Confronting Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism*. Western University helped us find a local area coordinator. Unfortunately, communications have proven difficult and we have been working without a LAC. Chris Miller volunteered but it was unable to work due to the pandemic. Want to thank Chris.

Presentations:

The CFP closed December 15, 2019 without a deadline extension. Draft program was submitted to Congress via portal on March 20th. We received a total of 34 individual papers from 37 presenters (3 papers have 2 presenters); 1 special paper; 6 panels with 21 participants including chairs; 6 roundtables with 29 participants including presidors and presenters, and 1 author meets the critics roundtable with 4 participants co-sponsored with the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA). There are people participating in multiple panels so in total we have 80 people attending this year (29 students). We offer all accepted presentations to present at Congress next year.

Craigie or Interdisciplinary Lecture Hosting:

We are hosting this year's Craigie/International Speaker. Amir Hussein, Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, has agreed deliver the International Joint Speaker 2 lecture. The title of his presentation is *Muslims Challenging and Changing Images of Muslims on Film and Television*. We received \$1100 from the Federation's International Speaker Grant to host the event. We are not scheduled to host in 2021 but recommend consulting with the other associations about how to move forward with the 2021 event.

Congress 2020 during COVID-19 Pandemic:

The Federation announced its plan to move forward with Congress 2020 as a virtual conference in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All professional associations and societies were asked to let CFHSS know by March 27, 2020 whether or not they would participate in the online conference. Only 4 associations moved forward with virtual conferences with support from the Federation. This move to a virtual Congress would have had several important consequences and implications for our members. CSSR held an emergency meeting March 24, 2020 to discuss the plans for an online conference and decided unanimously to withdraw our participation this year.

Congress Graduate Merit Awards (CGMA):

The Federation allotted us 6 Congress Graduate Merit Awards (CGMA) for this year. As we are not participating in the event this year these awards are no longer available to the CSSR.

Congress 2020 Refund:

The Federation extended the refund deadline, waived the \$25 administration fee for registrants, and gave associations the option of refunding members' registration fee or allowing registrants to donate it to the association (the onus would be on associations to provide charitable tax receipts). We opted for a full refund for members.

Congress 2021 at the University of Alberta:

Congress 2021 is in Edmonton May 29-June 4, 2021. The theme is northern relations and asks us to explore connections between peoples, communities' cultures, and ways of knowing, while listening to voices that speak directly to some of the most pressing issues in the north: reconciliation, governance, social justice, climate change, reciprocity, education, and more. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 29-Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Questions in Moving Forward:

Our ways of working and living have changed because of the pandemic. How have our members' lives changed? What are their concerns? Many universities and colleges have decided on hybrids of in person/ distance learning or distance learning for course delivery in the fall and in some cases the winter semester too. Transitioning to distance learning has led to increasing workloads and changes to how we teach. Initial research is showing that women's submissions for publication are down and that they are starting fewer research projects during the pandemic for example. What might next year's annual meeting might look like (how should it look) from a programming and planning standpoint to best support our members?

Discussion:

- Thank you for your great work.
- Congress Theme from 2020 to 2021: there was talk about keeping the 2020 theme for 2021. It is important not to lose the discussion on anti-Black racism and settler colonialism.
- It is important to note that the Federation did not move on this year's conference because they did not want to devalue this theme. We need to be mindful that these conversations need to continue in our association and in conference planning.
- Can we broaden our theme or do we need to move with the Federation's theme? We want to maintain the current work done for 2020. We can decide to make a hybrid theme or move the theme forward.
- Sarah said she can report back on some hybrid conferences she will be engaging in.
- The themes seem to be determined by the universities in conjunction with the Federation. We are not married to the theme as an association. Everything is up in the air.
- Northern relations can have a good response to the theme of systemic disadvantage become visible during a pandemic; we can see how this discussion can bridge the themes from 2020 to 2021.
- Alyshea spoke about writing a letter to the Federation to make sure that the theme from 2020 is carried forward. We need to honour that conversation. If people are interested, we can draft something and circulate it to ensure that voice is heard moving forward.
- They don't even know if they will be having an in person or hybrid conference in 2021.
- Let's see what's unfolding, we can see how we can move forward and reconvene on the topic.
- Thank you!

Graduate Students/Étudiants des études supérieures (Sana Patel)

Student Ambassadors

This is the fourth year of the Student Ambassador program, initiated by the CSSR/SCÉR's former graduate student member-at-large Saliha Chattoo. Student Ambassadors act as local liaisons between their home institutions and the CSSR/SCÉR, ensuring that their student body is kept up-to-date on all academic, funding, and professionalization opportunities we offer throughout the year. We have 14 Student Ambassadors so far this year that are now listed on our website, which is one more from our last meeting.

Graduate Student Luncheon

Because CSSR is cancelled this year, there is no luncheon. Perhaps we can use the contribution of \$350 from CCSR for both the lunch and the headshot event next year.

Other Business

The call for student essays for the student competition was forwarded to all Student Ambassadors in April 2020.

Discussion:

- Thank you, Sana!
- The student ambassador program is really a success
- No discussion

President/Présidente (Heather Shipley)

Thank you:

A great thank you to everyone in the CSSR for your dedication and great work, especially under the stress and changes brought on by COVID-19. Also, a heartfelt word of thank you as outgoing president and having been recording secretary for three years before that.

First Virtual AGM:

There are about 28 people are participating in the AGM in the afternoon; which is fantastique. . Thank you Samīkṣā, Paul, Qamer, Michelle, Ted, Ruby, Alyshea, Sharday, Sana and Sarah for making sure members are up to date about the plans as they unfold. Provided we have member registration, we will meet for the AGM from 2-4pm EST on Saturday May 30, 2020. Our executive is scheduled to proceed either way from 10am-12pm EST on Saturday May 30, 2020 (also by Zoom).

Virtual Voting:

Should any of the nominated positions be contested positions (multiple candidates), voting will be conducted for two weeks post-AGM via Google Form (counted by Samīkṣā) to ensure that members have the access they might need to submit their votes. If there are no contested positions, we will not need to conduct the vote by Google Form as the roles will be acclaimed.

CCSR President Presentation:

CCSR President, Mathieu Boisvert, will be presenting during our AGM to our members in their own efforts to ensure members of the constituent societies are aware of CCSR's role related to the societies.

Honorary Executive Advisory Position:

The position itself will be drafted and presented for a vote in our next AGM (2021). However, we will announce this to members this year, given them time to reflect on it prior to voting on this amendment next year.

Discussion:

- A big thank you for your leadership! We love you Heather! :D

Treasurer/Trésorier (Ted Malcolmson)

Membership Dues:

Membership dues are significantly down: 2018–2019 \$ 9,717.00 to 2019–2020 \$ 6,560.00.

AGM Deficit:

AGM Income: \$3,705.00; AGM Expenses \$4,097.87 = Deficit (\$392.87), which is substantial.

Essay Contests:

Same as last year with \$1,200.00. PhD Prize of 650.00 to Lucie Robathan. MA Prize of 250.00 to Connor Thompson. Undergraduate first prize of 250.00 to Justin Bulicz, second prize of 50.00 to Suzanne Bonfils.

Paypal Fees:

This was eliminated by the switch to eTransfer this year. Paypal was used up until April 16th, 2019. The cost last year was \$197.74.

Website:

We are still mostly working off credit due to the buildup over the change of hosts, so the only expense we had was \$32.00 for sitelock security. Last year the expenses were \$641.93. We also pay \$700.00 for our website admin, which is the same as it was last year.

Book Prize:

The book prize of \$100.00 went to Dr. Lori Beaman. This amount is unchanged from previous years.

Office Expenses:

Office Expenses this year were \$40.87 compared to last year's 33.18. This number will increase next year as we've gone through most of the built-up stash of stamps and envelopes.

Executive Travel:

This was \$3,400 across eight members, up from \$2,400 last year.

AGM Travel:

This past year we spent \$5,495.35 on AGM travel to Vancouver, which supported travel for 22 individuals.

Investment Gain/Loss:

This year's investments have, at present, a gain of \$1,239.51 compared to last year's \$1,548.97. Please note that due to a very volatile market this may not be the most accurate representation of the vitality of the investment—the account has gone down \$1,001.26 since March 8th.

Operating Income/Expenses:

Operating Income \$11,504.51; Funds from investment account \$5,000.00; Operating Expenses \$19,826.60, Net Deficit (-\$3,322.09). Here's a comparison between recent years: On the books 27 May 2020 = 92,280.82; On the books 27 May 2019 = \$98,743.41 → Down \$6,462.59.

This is due to our loss of income from the AGM as well as our investment downturn, and executive travel accounting for most of this differential.

Budget is tentative while there is a lot of things that are up in the air. This will allow for a lot of discussion. There is less income and expense.

Challenge to Vancouver AGM Expenses:

Initial congress statement of account sent August 20th did not have all of the catering expenses included, and indicated a \$2,037.25 surplus. A revised statement of account sent October 8th was revised to indicate a \$392.87 deficit. After consulting the exec, Ted challenged this amount, and the supporting documentation that they provided was just the number written in pencil on the event sheet. They indicated that they were having some issues getting documentation from UBC.

This was clearly an issue with the PIT bar at UBC randomly writing that they settled with 86 tickets when we gave out 40. The Federation came back and offered to pay 50% and we would pay 50% on the deficit. We want to raise this with you on paying the amount owed or do we pursue it. The amount owed

would be \$150; \$212 over what was budgeted. This is money owed to the Federation and not the caterer. (See discussion below)

Change of Mutual Fund

The current choice of mutual funds is, in my estimation, underperforming. I identified two potential alternatives earlier—that would be BMO Aggregate Bond ETF (ZAG) and BMO Discount Bond Index (ZDB). If the May 2019 mutual fund balance of \$65,024.16 had been put in a 50/50 split of those two bonds, the value today would be \$68,098.11 instead of \$66,263.67; a difference of \$1,834.44. Passively managed funds represent the health of the stock market as a whole rather than being actively managed to reflect anticipated trends like a standard mutual fund. While this makes these funds less able to react to changes in the economy—for example pandemics—they have much lower operating expenses.

Ted thinks passively managed funds are the superior investment vehicle, the strongest criticism is their inability to respond quickly to economic shifts like the kind we are living through, which in this context is generally presented as being less 'agile'. The idea of changing these funds should be something to think about in the future; maybe not right now. We can come back to this in the future; in the fall, winter, or next year. *We propose to see what happens next.*

Incorporation:

The actual paperwork is minimally invasive – a few forms, and a simple disclosure once a year – and the costs are minimal—300\$ or so, plus 12\$ a year to file the annual return. The primary advantages as I see it are a) individual board member protection in the event of potential legal action and b) eligibility for not-for-profit grants. It would also allow for much easier access to credit card payments, if we wanted to offer that as an option for members again. Not-for-profits can be incorporated provincially or federally—federally seems like the best option here. The chief obstacles I see are practical—corporations require a registered headquarters as a permanent or semi-permanent address. Updating the board of directors would require more filing and busywork. It would undeniably be more effort in terms of paperwork, but the advantages gained might be worth it.

(See discussion below)

Rising Ongoing Costs: Last Words

Since 2016 or so we have started to be less sustainable long-term. A few key factors here – 1) lackluster mutual fund performance 2) rising AGM expenses 3) lowering membership numbers 4) increase in executive travel funding. This isn't a crisis—but especially in the context of an upcoming year with reduced membership numbers, reduced AGM income, and reduced investment income, we could run into real funding issues inside fifteen years or so.

Discussion:

Discussion: Challenge to Vancouver AGM Expenses

- The drink tickets are a big part of the issues right now with regards to some part of our deficit. The money owed in splitting with the Federation would be \$212 over what we had budgeted. The problem is that it is the Federation that we need to talk to and not the caterer. UBC has been a real problem this Congress. They must have just counted the tickets twice; 80 was actually 40 drinks.
- This is a big problem with UBC. Do we just want to put an end to this stress? Let's see if we can absorb this if we can so that we can maintain our relationship with the Federation. We need to be more vigilant having documentation to support in the future. We need to do them differently in the future.
- ***Proposing:*** we have put forward to pay this amount to absorb that cost. People responded in the chat to unanimously support we pay the Federation the owed amount.

Discussion: Incorporation

- Thanks Ted for looking into this; we had talked about this last time.
- Sarah is in favour of incorporation for the benefits Ted spoke about, but for setting up the credit card system for membership payment. There was a struggle with the handful of internationals; but that wasn't resolved and put off to the future. This is hindering our growth internationally. Also, credit card payments are more secure if someone contests their payment. So there are many benefits.

- The initial costs of incorporation and lawyer fees are minimal to the benefits that we can get. The paper work is very minimal.
- We need to figure out what headquarters means. It needs to be a permeant contactable address.
- Paul: Maybe look at CCSR to see what they did to incorporate. We can see online and ask. We should send mail for life to Ruby.
- Ruby: We don't know what online organizations will look like in 10 years. It may be good to have now, but it is not mandatory. We want to stay under the radar too in trouble for what we should have done retroactively. We need to see if there is a past review for incorporating.
- Ted: I think a lawyer would say if they do that or not. I would rather be caught to the right thing now than retroactively for fraud.
- Heather: Would it be important to seek out a lawyer right now to make that decision. What do people think about that?
- Ted: Consult the CCSR to see what they did, and go see the lawyer and figure that out.
- Heather: Contact Chris Austen, the current treasurer of CCSR to ask him about process. What do they use for headquarters.
- Michelle: it seems to be a lot of work to becoming incorporate; but the onus is on us to keep up our paperwork. It seems a minimal issue. There are so many benefits that open up; like hosting grants that can only work as non-profits and such.
- Ruby: We definitely need to see if we're covered under CCSR because if they are using their non-profit status, we may be excluded from doing that on top of them.
- Michelle: I wonder if we're covered by our incorporation under CCSR.
- Heather: We can just ask CCSR if we're are covered by them.
- Paul: Do we have to adjust our bylaws to reflect incorporation? Are there things that add to the work if this happens?
- Heather: We would find that out. We have a constitution. Often there is a lot of templates to make it work. The outset is the work; but the outcome is great. We need to get a sense from CCSR before we can decide. Ted will contact CCSR to see how we can move forward.
- Ted: To respond to the rising costs, he thinks it would be good to be able to apply for grants. Or switching to a mutual fund with a better return. These are the types of things that will be a problem in a decade if we don't make any changes.
- Heather: With regards to executive travel, we had pulled from the interest and not the principle; there are no costs to essay contest, nor income from the meeting; and we would not continue with it if it isn't viable and we can't afford it. We need to consider how to best sustain our society moving forward. Is there a decision to be made right now?
- Ted: We shouldn't just sit on capital for the sake of it; we should use it or make it work for us and advance the interests of the CSSR. We should just be aware of this.
- Paul: When are we going to see the real picture of the budget in the midst of all of this upheaval?
- Ted: Memberships are static for this year; the investment will show next year. The AGM expense are the same for next year.
- Heather: We will see a better picture of the budget in the fall. Looking at this next year is a good idea. We will discuss it then. ALSO, there was no student essay contest winner. That line item can go out.
- Thank you, TED, so much for all of this work!! Holy man!

Membership Secretary/Secrétaire des membres (Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme)

Total Membership Numbers:

Decline in membership numbers in 2019 and 2020; decline of 32% in 2020, compared with 5-year 2014-2018 average. This is a trend for each type of membership.

Potential Shorter-Term Factors Driving CSSR Membership Down:

- 1) Online membership payment system was unavailable during summer and early fall 2019. Once we got it back up and running in fall 2019, did not accept credit card payments (only Interac E-Transfer, cheque or money order). Due to new Canadian regulations surrounding e-payment for organizations. Working on solutions for 2021. Should we say that we're working towards 2022? It seems like only viable option.
- 2) Big issue was that 2020 CSSR conference at Congress was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our conference was cancelled before all 2020 membership payments were received from conference

participants. Estimate our membership total for 2020 would have been approx. 120 if the conference had gone ahead in person. Hopefully will not be an issue for future years

- 3) Some retiring regular members are not being replaced in their Departments. More scholars are only being hired as sessional/limited-term contract workers, and have less/no available academic expense funds for things like association membership. Greater competition from larger number of associations/conferences for limited available dollars.

Potential Factors Driving CSSR Membership Up:

Online and social media membership drive in fall 2020 and winter 2021. Thanks to all those of you who helped us get the word out. And we have such a great community of scholars.

Five Great Reasons to Join or Renew Your 2020 CSSR Membership Today!

1 • Participate in and support our annual conference!

2 • Help provide Canadian students, emerging scholars and high-quality research with funding and prizes!

3 • Get access to great resources, including: *Studies in Religion*, the CSSR newsletter, research prizes, student travel funding, a larger network of research peers, and more!

4 • Help give our diverse community of Canadian researchers of religion a voice! The CSSR advocates on your behalf with organizations such as the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

5 • Great 2020 membership student (\$30-\$50), associate member (\$55-\$60) and regular member (\$100) rates!

Visit us online for more information: cssrscer.ca

What You Can Do to Keep CSSR Membership Going Strong:

Help us get the word out about CSSR whenever and wherever you can. There'll be another membership drive in fall 2020 and winter 2021: when you see the messages and posters, please share them widely with your networks. Keep coming to the annual CSSR conference at Congress. And keep organizing great sessions with panelists new to the CSSR.

Other CSSR Membership Business:

Have not decided yet if CSSR membership fees will stay the same, increase or decrease for some or all member categories in 2021. Decision will be made over the course of the summer, once the CSSR Executive has had the chance to review all 2019-2021 expenses. Ultimate goal is to keep these membership fees as low as possible, while still managing to cover all CSSR annual expenses.

There have been some discrepancies with the distribution of *Studies in Religion* to members who have paid for it. Some members have reported receiving two hard copies of the same issue; or delayed delivery. Working with Sage to sort these issues out, but please let me know via e-mail of any issues you experience with this. And a reminder that members who have paid to receive SR can select to receive an e-copy instead: Sage should've sent you an e-mail to this effect at the start of the calendar year.

Discussion:

- Asked if we were looking at changes around incorporation for 2022. It really is about security and accessibility for bringing in new members.
- Ted: In terms of raising fees, it is going to be a tough sell right now. Because of the pandemic, we are not going to raise fees. We will have to wait a year for that.
- Ruby: Passing a raise on fees has to be voted on twice: you have to tell people a year in advance and do it again at the AGMs. We raised fees about 5 years or more? So, fees stay where they are for 10-15 years. People wouldn't feel like they are getting more for their money, while everything else is tightening up at the same time.

- Heather: We need to have conversations about how we are engaging in our community that supports people as best as possible. Those are important conversations to have with our membership in relation to raising fees. Who is CSSR for and what can we provide to our members.
- Samīkṣā: The video testimonial idea would be great! We should do that!
- Michelle: How do we increase our visibility to other spaces like NGOs; like people in Pastoral care. Is this a time to doing something different like virtual dialogues or things like that throughout the year?
- Sarah: SSSR is doing this online in the Fall 2020; Zoom webinars, authors' meet critics. Once a month would be fun! Do graduate luncheons online. These should be free events for our members. A way to give back and say we're doing stuff.
- Paul: Ronning Centre at the UofA were talking about videographers or animators in resourcing our academic work to package it to the community on their mandate of religion and the public sphere.
- Sarah: We don't have to do all of the work; we can ask people to chair the sessions and we provide the platform. We have to get things together for the Fall.
- Heather: We have to be mindful of people's time too. We have new people coming to the executive. How do we continue to sustain conversation outside of the academic platform?

Past President (Ruby Ramji)

Open Executive Positions and Current Nominations:

The following positions are open for election at the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Nominations received to date (May 29, 2020) are listed below, and further nominations will be accepted up to the time of elections, as well as any from the floor:

Recording Secretary:

Nominations: Diana Dimitrova, Universite de Montreal

Member-at-Large:

Nominations: Qamer Hameed, University of Ottawa Jeanine Leblanc, University of Alberta

Program Co-Chair:

Nominations: Nicholas Shrubsole, University of Central Florida

President:

Nominations: Paul Gareau, University of Alberta

CSSR Book Prize:

Eighteen books were submitted for the 2019 CSSR Book Prize Competition. The committee, comprised of Ruby Ramji, Arlene MacDonald and Qamer Hameed, evaluated and ranked the books submitted. The winner for the 2019 CSSR Book Prize is: ***What Has No Place, Remains. The challenges for Indigenous Religious Freedom in Canada Today*** by Nicholas Shrubsole. (University of Toronto Press: 2019).

Discussion:

- The committee did a GREAT job. Great that the book prize is getting more popular.
- We didn't know that he was on the book prize and joining the executive. It is also really cool that people had to be members to be part of the book prize this year.
- Is there a sticker for this book prize? The press is informed, but it's up to them. It has come up on their websites. This would help us with our branding; see if we can re-tweet it and stuff.
- Send membership details to Sarah. No problem.
- Are we in contact with the CCSR publication arm? This has been kept separate; we just want it broad to include there. Maybe we can have a conversation.
- Heather: We have raised this to the CCSR meetings; if their ways to further connect with this. Any constituent societies couldn't be part of the CCSR executive. It is a problem because we lose a lot of potential people to be part of CSSR executive.
- Ruby: Now we have more time to give out the prize. We are worthy of being a sticker.

Recording Secretary/Secrétaire archiviste (Paul Gareau)

AGM Zoom Meeting:

Hopefully everything will go smoothly for the AGM with regards to Zoom and for the time zones. We have about 28 people coming. Keeping good Zoom protocol. Paul hopes everything will run smoothly for the afternoon. Zoom has been great.

Secretary Streamlining:

Paul wants to consider streamlining our file sharing and messaging. Maybe Google options with regards to emails. When calendar invites come down the line, please respond to them. It is best that the secretary communicates information through the calendar invite. Looking to create a system to share documents.

Discussion:

- Heather: If you have suggestions, please go for it for the next step.
- Paul: There is a gap between what individuals have and what we can carry forward. How do we keep things centralized if we move towards incorporation?
- Samīkṣā: Remember that the website also is a repository for our institutional memory. But there are limitations. We need to rethink the website as we move forward. We need to update the AGM minutes online.
- Ruby: The website is the institutional memory.
- Paul: Zoom practices: how do we move forward using Zoom.
- Samīkṣā: We need a YouTube channel for CSSR.
- Heather: It would be important to look at new repository spaces and practices.

Communications Officer/Agente des communications (Samīkṣā Munro)

Website and Server:

Everything is running just fine now that we switched to Bluehost web hosting provider. Ongoing issue: we need to continue renewing our domain name with Hostpapa since Bluehost does not support .ca domain names. Our Bluehost site nameservers are simply pointing at the Hostpapa domain name now. We still have some credit on our account through Hostpapa so we will use the remaining amount to continue renewing our domain there every year.

One thing for me to continue to watch out for is that Bluehost seems to like updating specific features on its own (e.g. index.php file) which makes our website not show up properly. It is a matter of reuploading the correct file into the website and is not difficult. If the website goes down in the future this is the first place to check. A security update for drupal (the php software our website runs on) was successfully conducted in mid-May 2020.

Sunflower:

SUNFLOWER (our automated paper submission system) ran smoothly during autumn 2019. It is ready for use in Autumn 2020.

New Membership Payment System:

We have switched from a PayPal payment system to Interac E-Transfer, which we began implementing in November, 2019. It seems to be running smoothly at least on the website side of things.

Membership Database:

There are roughly 715 members within our website's database as of May 24, 2020. The numbers have gone up during the membership renewal period, as usual. Thank you to our Membership Sarah Wilkins-LaFlamme for diligently updating members' membership status on the database as she receives notice of their payments from our Treasurer, and creating new profiles for them if they are new members. The website database is usually consistent with the list we send to SAGE. We also started to more vigorously promote membership renewal this autumn 2019 with a poster and included it all over the website and in

our weekly newsletter consistently into the new year.

CSSR Weekly Newsletter:

Our Mailchimp newsletter service is still working great for us. As of May 24, 2020, we have 532 subscribers to our Mailchimp mailing list (it fluctuates as people subscribe and unsubscribe). “SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER” option is still on our website’s home page as well as under the “Connect” menu. Thank you to other CSSR Executive members who also send news to post onto the website and include in our newsletter each week. Alyshea Cummins (former Recording Secretary) also continues to send out the Twitter items. The Facebook page is maintained by another CSSR Executive member – occasionally I post there too.

Discussion:

- Heather: Amazing work in getting all of this done and working smoothly!! :D
- Samīkṣā: Total pleasure! You make my job easier!

Student Essays/Essai étudiant (Sharday Mosurinjohn/Alyshea Cummins)

Student Essay Winners:

We have had to nullify the PhD competitions. We have first prize and second prize for Undergrad and one prize for MA.

The First Prize winner of the Undergraduate competition is:

“The Perfect Man in the Philosophy of Zhuangzi and Ibn ‘Arabī,” by Ian Greer, McGill University

The Second Prize winner of the Undergraduate competition is:

“Jewish Identity as Reflected in Musical Compositions” Sophie Sklar, McGill University

The winner of the MA competition is:

“The Politics of the Hidden Soul: Judicial Ethics in Augustine’s *City of God*,” by Jonas Brandt, McMaster University

Discussion:

- Heather: Thank you for your great work! MAL do great work! We need to be able to communicate more clearly so that they may send essays out for the competition.
- Ted: In the AGM agenda, I am before the essay prize results. Should I mention it at that time that we don’t have the PhD prize this year?
- Heather: You are presenting what we are not spending money on this year, and we are not spending money on that. It won’t cause contradiction or conflict we will be announcing that more formally in the student essay competition.

5. Additional items/ Des articles supplémentaires

None.

6. Next teleconference/ Prochaine teleconference

Discussion:

- Fall 2021: date and time not set

7. Adjournment/ Adjournement

MOTION: *Accept the agenda.*

Moved: Samīkṣā Love

Seconded: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme
Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 EDT