

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RHETORIC (CSSR) MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, June 1, 2012, 3:15-5:00PM

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Meeting chaired by Jeanie Wills, President CSSR-CSÉR

Present: 17. David Beard, Victor Ferry, John Moffat, Loïc Nicolas, Michael Purves-Smith, Shannon Purves-Smith, Debora Rolfes, Benoît Sans, Joseph Schmidt, Greg Schneider, Pierre Zoberman, Guillaume Tedeschi, Nick Turnbull, Burton Urquhart, Tracy Whelan, Jeanie Wills, Pierre Zoberman.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: that the agenda be adopted. David Beard / Tracy Whalen. Carried.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Amendments proposed:

9.2 Victor Ferry “and Loic” will help Lyn.

9.0 correct spelling of “Abstention”

10. clarify executive members’ titles.

10.2.1 correct spelling: “David Beard”.

Motion: that the minutes be adopted as amended. . David Beard / Tracy Whalen. Carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Elections. Is anyone interested in developing a CSSR Facebook page as mentioned in the minutes? Tania Smith agrees.

4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

4.1 Fee structure for dues. Membership dues have been \$30 for regular faculty since the late 1990s. Should we raise it to \$40 for faculty and \$10 for students? New people who register pay a congress fee plus a CSSR fee. If you are a member, student or unemployed, your fees are cheaper. But that money goes to the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) congress, and it goes to the rental of the room, sending out programs, tech support. We pay \$500 in addition to AV rental equipment.

Discussion: Pierre Zoberman noticed that the trend over the years has been for our account revenues to decline, and translation is important, i.e. for our journal articles. Tracy Whalen suggested not to raise the fee for students. Josef Schmidt pointed out that other associations charge \$25 for seniors/retired. David Beard said he's only comfortable raising it \$10 without seeing a budget. Tania Smith suggested donations should be encouraged. Shannon is donating the cookies and water. Applauded.

Motion: that membership dues be raised to \$40 for faculty and \$10 for students. Michael Purves-Smith /Josef Schmidt. Carried.

4.2 RSA Joint Conference 2018. David Zarefsky, the President of RSA, emailed our President to ask about a joint conference in a border city. Who is interested? The issue is the cost of not going through CFHSS to host a conference. We have asked CFHSS if we could suspend our fees for one year in order to do this, but we have not heard back.

Discussion: John Moffat is a member of RSA's internationalization group. RSA had talked about coming to Canada, but their members said it would be too expensive. They are thinking of meeting in Minneapolis in an upcoming year. There are still a few years before we need to make a decision. Zarefsky does seem to be suggesting a single room and a certain day of the conference. David Beard suggested us hosting the RSA Institute (not the RSA conference) through CFHSS. Tania Smith suggested that the CSSR have an RSA concurrent session, but John Moffatt pointed out that this often means that few attend sessions cross-culturally. Members raised some concerns about cost.

Motion: The President is directed to explore the idea of hosting an RSA institute through CFHSS and report back to the CSSR members in 2 months. David Beard/ Gregory Schneider. Carried.

4.3. Graduate student prize for best paper. Congratulations were expressed to Christine Horton for winning the prize for her paper, "Rhetoric and Torture in Aristotle and Attic Oratory." Ms. Horton was not present but an announcement will be made via the email list. How do we sustain this prize? It should come out of the CSSR budget, and if so, how much?

Discussion: Debora Rolfes asked how we can vote about it without a budget. Tania Smith suggested that we explore the possibility of graduate student funding via CFHSS.

Motion: That funding for the graduate prize (or prizes) be taken from the regular budget of the Society contingent upon the availability of funds. Pierre Zoberman/Shannon Purves-Smith. Carried

Amendment: to explore CFHSS travel funding for graduate students and to continue the grad student paper prize with an unnamed amount to be contingent upon budget. Tania Smith / John Moffatt. Carried.

5. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.

5.1 Member at large. Tracy Whalen nominated Victor Ferry for member at large. Acclaimed.

5.2 Student member of the advisory committee. This role will involve reviewing proposals for conference papers. Jeanie Wills nominated Monica Brown in her absence

5.2.1 Motion: Jeanie Wills will contact Monica Brown (not present) and ask if she would like to hold this position. Carried.

5.3 Secretary Treasurer. Stephen Pender is ill and has not been able to do his work this year. The 2011-12 financial records were unavailable at the time of the meeting. The executive decided to replace Stephen Pender, who has apologized for his inability to fulfill the role. The executive expressed hopes that Stephen Pender will be able to participate as an active member of our organization. Nominations were invited for a single year position, 2012-2013. Shannon Purves-Smith and Jeanie Wills nominated Tania Smith, who accepted the nomination. Shannon Purves-Smith pointed out that Tania Smith has been involved in the CSSR since the late 1990s, has frequently presented papers at CSSR and has published several pieces in our Rhetor journal, and had recently served on the Advisory Committee. Tania Smith was acclaimed, with applause.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Pierre Zoberman described his position as promoting the society and promoting links. He was an active member of the executive committee, participating in decisions, but no materials were updated. He is considering creating a new poster and brochure for next year. We are now linked to an European rhetoric site links page for international organizations.

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

None is available since Stephen Pender was unable to fulfill his duties this year. Jeanie Wills distributed the previous year's budget from 2011. Jeanie Wills guessed that the association had approximately \$2000.00. Jeanie will obtain information from Stephen and other locations. A financial report is to be communicated to the membership by email.

Discussion: A question was raised as to why the CFHSS does not fund the association directly. No one could provide an answer.

8. WEBMISTRESS'S REPORT

Jeanie Wills reported that Rebecca Carruthers Den-Hoed (not present) will continue to update and maintain the website until her term ends next year.

Discussion: Tania Smith volunteered to speed up this process of website renewal. We should keep the excellent design and layout. Tania Smith will consult with Rebecca regarding hosting to ensure the site is hosted on our own domain, and to discover whether the site is running on WordPress, a popular open-source website technology that makes collaborative content management easier. Victor Ferry and Loïc Nicolas volunteered to be the point person for French translations for the WordPress pages.

9. CONSTITUTION REVISIONS

Article 6.4 "The agenda for meetings shall be distributed at least 14 days..." David Beard suggested to delete the point in the constitution if it is too hard to meet.

Motion: Amend to "The agenda for meetings of members shall be distributed to the Executive Committee before the Annual General Meeting". Shannon Purves-Smith/David Beard. Carried.

Article 6.6 It was suggested that online voting should be acceptable for matters arising between the two AGMs, via email votes, with a quorum of 25% of current paid members.

Motion: Amend to "For matters arising during the period between two Annual General Meetings and requiring that a decision be made before the AGM can be held, a vote shall be conducted by email by the Present. An email vote or ballot can also be conducted for matters raised at the AGM and needing further discussion, in which case the AGM will direct the President to conduct such a vote. The question shall be put to the membership at least one week before the vote, and a reminder shall be sent two days before the vote. The President shall be responsible for counting the votes. A quorum of 25% of the membership is required." Burton Urquhart/Debora Rolfes. Carried.

10. RHETOR JOURNAL UPDATES

There was no formal report from the current editor, Rebecca Carruthers Den-Hoed (not present). The call for papers for the 2013 edition has gone out. Shannon Purves-Smith gave a report on the preparation of the 2011 edition. She noted that there is a need to engage the editorial board more actively in the future. She also advised that certain aspects of the journal web page need updating. The 2011 journal will be completed shortly with the French translation of the editor's lead article. Upcoming deadlines: July 15, 2012 for submissions. Rhetor is published every two years.

11. 2013 CSSR CONGRESS.

11.1 Motion: that the CSSR hold the 2013 conference at the CFHSS next year in Victoria. Shannon Purves-Smith / John Moffatt. Carried.

Discussion. Several topics were suggested for special sessions.

Rhetoric and Humanism * **selected**

Rhetoric and Pedagogy
 Rhetoric and Gender
 Perelman
 Rhetoric of Canadian Identity
 Rhetoric and Transnationalisms
 Rhetoric and Religion and Spirituality
 Practice/Praxis and Rhetoric
 Rhetoric and Performance
 Rhetoric and Perelman
 Embodied rhetoric
 Rhetoric and Aging

These themes were written on the chalkboard. For the first round of votes, each member could vote for any theme. The top three themes were identified. In the second round of votes, each person could only vote once.

11.3 Motion: the 2013 conference theme shall be Rhetoric and Humanism, and the Renaissance studies group will be invited. Carried.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Conference Announcements

- The CFHSS Congress in 2013 will be held June 1-8, 2013.
- In Brussels there will be international conference May 16-18 2013 on the uses and functions of rhetoric. Languages will be English and French.
- A conference on Perelman will be held in Trois-Rivieres in Oct 2012?

12.2 Thanks and recognition

- All expressed thanks to Shannon Purves-Smith for editing the Rhetor journal for the past two years.
- Members expressed that Sylvain Rheault should be provided some sort of recognition for past devotion to the organization.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Motion: that the meeting be adjourned at 5:00 (??) PM. ___ / ___ Carried.

Minutes submitted by Tania Smith, Secretary-Treasurer

SOCIÉTÉ POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA RHÉTORIQUE (SCÉR)
[FRENCH TRANSLATION OF MINUTES IS IN PROCESS]

CSSR FINANCIAL STATEMENT / ÉTATS FINANCIERS

Note: This statement is incomplete: see Section 7 of the 2012 AGM minutes.

Opening Balance (May 2011)	\$
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	
Translation fees	\$
2011 CFHSS fees	\$542.00
Monthly bank fees	\$
TOTAL (as of Date)	\$
TOTAL DEPOSITS	
Memberships at 2011 Conference (Deposited DATE 2011)	\$
Memberships paid between 2011 and 2012 conferences	\$
TOTAL (as of Date)	\$
Balance of Calgary CSSR account	\$-482.54
Balance of Windsor CSSR account	\$1847.00
NET bank balance (as of May 31, 2012)	\$1364.46