ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, January 7, 2017

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Marriott New Orleans

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by President Cristina Traina.

* Christiana Peppard was appointed Secretary Pro Tem
* Jean Porter was appointed Parliamentarian Pro Tem
* The minutes from January 9, 2016 were approved.
* New Members and members with new status were noted and welcomed.

1. Karen Peterson-Iyer, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for election.

* Vice President: Patricia Beattie Jung, Hak Joon Lee
* Board: Luke Bretherton, Travis Kroeker, Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, C. Melissa Snarr, Darlene Fozard Weaver, Aana Marie Vigen
* Bryan Massingale was presented as the chair of next year’s Nominating Committee.
* There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and ballots were marked and collected.

1. Commemoration of Deceased Members:

* Max Stackhouse, d. January 30, 2015—Scott Paeth
* Louis Wendell Hodges, d. February 8, 2016—Harlan Beckley
* Anne Patrick, d. July 21, 2016—Susan Ross

1. Cristina Traina provided the President’s Report.

* *Personnel Updates.* The Executive Director has been graciously extending her work to June 30, 2017, and recommends an interim person coordinate the transitions of the Society that are ongoing. Linda Schreiber intends to retire at the end of the 2020 meeting. Therefore, an interim Transitional Executive Director position is being established to oversee this transition and the board hopes to have an appointment made by April 2017.
* *Board Updates.* 
  + $3000 per year has been granted to each Working Group and the Contingent Faculty Caucus through the 2019 meeting.
  + Upon member approval via a bylaw change, two Board slots will be designated for Student Members who will be elected by the full membership of the Society, reflecting the fact that 20% of the SCE’s members are students.
  + The Climate Impact Task Force made recommendations for immediate implementation and further development of the dual values of academic exchange and attention to the environmental, justice-related impacts of our meetings.
  + Outgoing Board members were applauded for their service.

1. David Gushee provided the President-Elect’s Report.

* The new members and Chairs of Society-wide committees and standing board committees were announced, and were listed in the program book.
* The 2018 theme was announced along with a description of David Gushee’s choice to feature two plenaries in the following way:
  + voices from each of the three Working Groups plus area specific bibliographies from the three Working Groups;
  + voices from three younger scholars who have published books since 2014.

1. The Report of the Executive Director for Strategic Planning was provided on behalf of Stacey Floyd-Thomas by Cristina Traina.

* The SCE has a new Operations Manual that is regularly used at Board meetings, the inception and efficacy of which is due to Stacey’s tireless work and championing of the project. It will be revised yearly.
* Ongoing assessment is needed about whether and how well the Society is meeting the needs of its membership.
* Advocacy is an important question for the Society to continue to consider.
* Transparency, translatability, and thoughtfulness have been Stacey’s guidelines as she aspires to make the SCE efficacious in its mission to be transformative for scholars and practitioners.
* A round of applause was shared for Stacey.

1. Patrick Flanagan presented the Treasurer’s Report.

* Referring to handouts provided at the Business Meeting, the Treasurer noted that “our society is in great financial shape” even as we face challenges for the future. The values of stewardship and sustainability are guiding Board decisions regarding finances.
* Highlighted information:
  + Annual meeting costs continue to rise in pace with economic trends, but costs will possibly be less for Portland and more for Louisville. To offset such costs an annual drawdown from the treasury continues, and a freeze of $195 registration for full members will be in effect through the 2021 meeting.
  + Additional expenditures seek to benefit the organization creatively and ethically, but a liquid base of $115,000 needs to be maintained as insurance against the potential costs of cancelling a meeting.
  + Investments are guided by ethical investing principles.
  + Membership decreases over the next 10-15 years are anticipated, so the Board will undertake fundraising initiatives to ensure long-term sustainability.
  + A multi-year holistic assessment will occur from the Board on the financial wellbeing of the Society.

1. Laura Stivers presented the report from the By-Laws Committee

* Bylaw changes were proposed to catch up with the changes in structure and governance that have already been implemented, notably the change to a four-year Presidential line. Membership had opportunity to comment via email and a special session at the annual meeting. Hearing no questions or proposed amendments, it was moved that the revised Bylaws be presented to the membership. Cristina Traina proposed that the changes to the Bylaws be accepted as proposed. *A verbal vote was taken and the measure passed unanimously, with one abstention.*

[A special note of gratitude was inserted by Cristina Traina to thank all who were involved in the logistics of this meeting.]

1. Sondra Ely Wheeler presented the Report from the Professional Conduct Committee.

* There was no work for this committee in the past year.
* An orientation process will occur for existing and incoming members in order to provide review of the procedures and policies, thus providing a sense of continuity and ownership of the policy.

1. The editors of the *JSCE,* Mark Allman and Tobias Winright, provided their report, noting especially that:

* The Board approved higher stipends for the co-editors and book review editor.
* A small profit is made from downloads from ATLA, so membership is encouraged to have students download articles individually as that generates income for the Journal.
* Acceptance rate for the Journal is roughly 13%.
* The editors noted that they have worked to:
  + Expand access to the Journal digitally around the world
  + Expand the role of the Book Review editor, who now hosts Breakfast with an Author
  + Specify and engage editorial board members
  + Conduct demographic surveys about authors, participation, proposals. The results of this initial survey will be published in the Winter 2017 edition of the Journal. A fuller version of raw data will be published on the SCE website.
* The editors expressed gratitude for the opportunity to get to know many members through working on the Journal. Special comments were expressed for those who:
  + Refereed papers in the past five years
  + Society members who served on the Editorial Board.
  + New members of the Editorial Board were welcomed with appreciation.
  + A new Book Review editor will be appointed; Kate Blanchard was thanked for her service.
  + Graduate student Nathaniel Hibner was thanked for his coordination of streamlining communication efforts between the editors and authors for the JSCE.
  + Linda Schreiber was thanked profusely for her effort and dedication.
  + Scott Paeth and Kevin Carnahan were thanked for their willingness to serve and were welcomed into the role of JSCE editors.
* Cristina Traina emphasized the unique process of mentorship and dedication that the Journal provides, and thanked the editors for their service.

1. Greetings were warmly expressed from the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (SSCE) by David Clough, and from Societas Ethica (SE) by Hille Haker.

* The SSCE conference theme in Cambridge in September 2017 will be Hope and all SCE members are welcome to submit papers.
* SE members come from over 30 countries. The summer 2017 meeting will be roughly 60-100 members and held in Greece on the theme of Evil (August 24-27, 2017) with a paper proposal deadline of April 1, 2017. Some financial support for doctoral students is possible.
* Cristina Traina noted that the SE annual meeting member registration rates will be extended to SCE membership; similarly, the SCE Board has moved to develop a procedure by which SE members could propose a paper to SCE without being full members of this society.

1. New Business

* Stanley Hauerwas noted that Charlie Reynolds has not been present for several years and would like him to be remembered in the prayers of members of the Society.

[Cristina Traina thanked Linda Schreiber for her detailed and tireless work for the good of the SCE, and the membership gave a standing ovation.]

1. Election Results:

* President: David Gushee
* President-Elect: Diane Yeager
* Vice President: Patricia Beattie Jung
* Board: Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, Darlene Fozard Weaver, Aana Marie Vigen.

1. Adjournment!

* The movement and unanimous vote to adjourn occurred at 3:17 p.m. after David Gushee thanked Cristina Traina for her service and presented her with the official SCE pin.