

History of Science Society Business Meeting
22 November 2015, 8:00-9:00 am
Georgian Room (Mezzanine Level)
Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, CA

Minutes

Officers attending: Angela Creager (President), Janet Browne (Vice President), Floris Cohen (Editor), Adam Apt (Treasurer), Marsha Richmond (Secretary), and Jay Malone (Executive Director)

Meeting called to order at 7:54am.

President's Welcome (Angela Creager)

We began 2015 with a newly-approved Strategic Plan, with 6 overall goals, 21 objectives, and 51 action steps. Needless to say, prioritization was in order. Because getting the HSS bylaws and governance structure was a necessary first step for many of our new aims—and because the new DC incorporation laws required us to change our by-laws in accordance—I have focused much of my efforts this past year on legal bylaws, organizational structure, procedures, and policies. I was aided by the stalwart and seemingly inexhaustible members of the Bylaws Committee—Terry Christensen, Fa-ti Fan, Jan Golinski, Jay Malone, Mary Mitchell, Marsha Richmond, Marc Rothenberg, and Audra Wolfe—and I ask them to stand to be thanked for their work. I am delighted to be able to present to Council a new set of Article of Incorporation, Bylaws, Procedures Manual, and Policies Manual. These last two documents will not be static; I fully expect that making changes will become a regular part of our Council meetings. In the new documents the Bylaws committee sought to revamp the committees, expand the EC, and make more officers elected by the membership. We hope these changes will make our leadership more responsive to our members and better able to achieve our goals.

This is not to suggest that the rest of the Strategic Plan was on hold. In fact, I'd say that we've made a start on most of the steps. To mention just a few that transpired this week, this year's meeting program features roundtables as well as sessions of papers, and a plenary session in which the historical actors are, well, acted out! Our Technology and Communications Committee is helping us determine how to best promote and recognize digital scholarship, HSS will have its second THAT camp this week, we are now a member of PACHS, and we are already hosting public engagement events, thanks to the Paris Endowment.

I've also focused a good deal of this past year on two other issues. First, I have continued to encourage HSS to think internationally. The MPI reader project provided a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with six other learned societies in launching a poll for nominations of the most influential articles in the history of science, technology, and medicine published in the last quarter-century. There are already 201 nominations. Also toward the aim of internationalization, I chaired a panel on Friday organized by Soma Banerjee on HSS's Outreach to South Asia, at which we discussed how to better serve historians of science in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Second, I held ongoing discussions with Floris Cohen, Desiree Capel, Michael Magoulias, Adam Gannaway, and Jay Malone on the details of our new publication contract with University of Chicago Press. We signed the agreement this past Thursday. The contract will insure that our society is benefiting from the growing institutional subscriptions to our journals in the age of online publishing.

In closing, I am grateful to have been able to serve HSS at a time of significant transitions: the selection of a new Society Editor and the move of our Editorial Office to the Netherlands, the completion of a Strategic Plan, the renewal of our Society's governance structure to fulfill that plan, and the strengthening of the relationship with University of Chicago Press. I would like to recognize Bert Theunissen, director of the Descartes Society, who provides wonderful support to the *Isis* Editorial Office. Janet Browne and Bernie Lightman will, I believe, continue to keep the Society vibrant and internationally-minded, and they are exceedingly lucky to have such a terrific set of Council members and officers, as well as our first-rate Executive Director (and his able Society Coordinator and Empress of Engagement). I thank you all for being such good companions these past few years.

Secretary's Report (Marsha Richmond)

Approval of the Business Meeting Minutes from November 2014. (Copies of the Business Meeting Minutes from 2014 are available at www.hssonline.org/Meeting/). Misspelled name was pointed out and corrected.

⇒ Motion to approve the minutes, as amended. Seconded and approved.

Executive Director's Report (Jay Malone)

For the 2015 conference we had 755 registered, but we also had a number of persons on the program who failed to attend without notice, and we'll be looking into this. For next year we'll be meeting in downtown Atlanta and it promises to be a wonderful meeting.

HSS has approved a Respectful Behavior Policy, which we will continue to revise through forming an ad hoc committee of the Council. The new Policies Manual and Procedures Manual will be available on the website soon.

We are looking to do a development audit to see whether we should undertake a capital campaign, which may be underway in the next few months.

Jay recognized the tremendous assistance provided by Greg Macklem in planning this meeting, and one of the things Jay is working on is hiring a meeting manager so that Greg's other talents can be put to use as we focus on the strategic plan.

Jay was sorry that Charles Gillespie was omitted from last night's In Memoriam recognition, which was regrettable and his passing will be recognized.

Discussion: Audra asked about disability access. Jay said that all the rooms HSS actually used in this historic property were ADA accessible, and this will not be a problem next year as we will meet in a more modern property.

Announcement of the 3-Societies Meeting next June in Edmonton; the call for papers is early December.

Editor's Report (H. Floris Cohen)

A few quantitative data first. The *Isis* Editorial Office has in process some 12-14 manuscripts at any one time. Floris has space for one article in June and two in September, and has mss in the pipeline. The book reviews are also going well. They experienced a slight delay owing to a pause in Joan Vandegrift's schedule, but it looks like the March issue will be back on schedule. A few extra pages provided to *Isis* will allow them to print an occasional additional article, but will primarily expand the book reviews in issues, which will require a bit of extra copy editing. Floris mentioned a change in one of the Book Review Editors in January. Also, Andrea Rusnock, *Osiris* Editor, will be stepping down at the end of her term of office, so we will be seeking a new Editor. Floris thanked the staff of the Editorial Office and especially Bert Theunissen, director of the Descartes Center.

Stephen Weldon provided an update about the new open-access platform for the *Isis* CB data that goes back to 1974 (see <http://data.isiscb.org/>). He will continue to update this site and invites people to visit it and send back any corrections and additions. A small widget will be on the HSS page, which will allow someone to search the *Isis* database directly from the website. Eventually he plans to expand it with Wellcome and SHOT data.

Treasurer's Report (Adam Apt)

Adam thanked the Finance Committee for their work. Our finances are in good condition. Last year we showed a loss on the Reconciliation Report of \$17,000, which reflects the end of our relationship with the Philosophy of Science Association. In FY2016 we will have an additional \$10,000 expense to support travel to the 3-Society Meeting in June 2016, but we will have a new revenue stream this fiscal year from the University of Chicago Press. The Euro/US dollar exchange rate has favored us, but we do not of course know how this will be in the future. Still, our future finances look solid.

⇒ Michelle Aldrich moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded and approved.

Committee Reports (Synopsis by Jay Malone)

(Electronic copies of the various committee reports are available on the HSS website: www.hssonline.org/Meeting/ (see the "Business Meeting" link).

- Committee on Honors and Prizes: The committee created a short nomination form for honors and prizes available online, which the committee followed up by requesting a longer nomination package for individuals who were short-listed. This process worked well and so will be continued.

- Committee on Meetings and Program: Planning for the meeting in Atlanta is underway. This will be the first time HSS will be meeting with SLSA (Society for Literature, Society, and the Arts).
- Committee on Publications: The committee will begin the process of seeking a new Society Editor in the next couple of years.
- Committee on Education: In response to the HSS Strategic Plan, the committee will be expanded to include engagement, reflected in a change of name (Committee on Education and Engagement).
- Committee on Research and the Profession: In response to the HSS Strategic Plan, this committee has been disbanded and its missions will be covered by new committees, including the Committee on Membership and the Committee on Advocacy. Members are invited to volunteer for service on these committees.

New Business

1. Approval of the new Bylaws

Copies were provided to members. We have changed our Bylaws so they accord with the provisions of our District of Columbia Articles of Incorporation. The Bylaws are complemented by a separate Procedures Manual.

Under the new Bylaws, the Editor will be a non-voting member of Council and the Executive Committee. In order to avoid a tie on the Executive Committee, we have added a new member—the Council Delegate—who will be voted on by membership. Also the Secretary and Treasurer will be elected by the membership. Angela encourages members to send their names forward to the Nominating Committee if they are interested in serving the Society.

Discussion:

Question: If the Treasurer has fiduciary responsibility, why have them elected? *Angela:* The Treasurer is also a member of the Executive Committee, so it is good to have the individual elected by the membership. The term of office is two years, but he or she is eligible for re-election for up to three additional two-year terms, which will assure continuity. Angela mentioned that we want to assure integrity in our financial arrangements, and our annual audit helps maintain this integrity.

Audra Wolfe noted that in practice the Nominating Committee can put forward one candidate, but there is a provision for membership to put another name on the ballot. Angela explained that once the ballot is announced, members are able to provide additional input prior to the election. Audra suggested that candidates have platforms they share with members prior to the election. Angela mentioned that the Vice President is currently asked to provide a platform, and expanding this policy to other offices is a good suggestion.

Michael Barany observed that some language was missing under the indemnification section of the bylaws. Angela responded that we would address this omission at the next election.

⇒ Motion from Council to approve the Bylaws. Approved, with two Abstentions.

2. Since this is Angela's last Business Meeting as President, Jay presented her a gift of an HSS shot glass and suggested she have a stiff drink and collapse.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 am.

Minutes duly recorded by Marsha Richmond, Secretary