

HSS Business Meeting
Minutes
Sunday, 24 November, 8:30 – 9:35 a.m.
Westin Boston

Officers present:

Jay Malone (Executive Director), Lynn Nyhart (President), Angela Creager (Vice President), Adam Apt (Treasurer), Bernie Lightman (Editor), Marsha Richmond (Secretary); Janet Browne (Vice President-elect), Floris Cohen (Editor-elect).

Members present: 35

Meeting was called to order at 8:36am.

President's Welcome: Lynn K. Nyhart

Welcome! This year we have some business to bring before the membership prior to holding a Strategic Planning session.

The Society has appointed a new Editor of *Isis*, Floris Cohen, who is affiliated with the Descartes Institute of the University of Utrecht, Netherlands. Floris will take over from the retiring Editor, Bernie Lightman, on 1 July.

We need once again to approve a small change to the Bylaws.

Our new HSS website will soon be up and running. The Society is grateful to Fred Gibson and Alex Wellerstein for their assistance.

We formed two new caucuses this year, the Joint Caucus for Socially Engaged Philosophy and History of Science (JCSEPHS, or “Josephus” for short) and also HSS at Work, which is particularly aimed at those whose jobs are outside the professoriate. Both of these new groups invite the Society to look outward toward greater engagement with the world.

With regard to engagement, following up last year’s Blue Marble event, we held another public engagement activity, Science in the Streets, Thursday afternoon, which was well attended.

We have launched a new initiative—the Elizabeth Paris Endowment for Socially Engaged History and Philosophy of Science—to honor the life and values of Elizabeth Paris (1968-2009). The goal is to raise \$100,000 by the end of 2014 to endow an annual lecture and other public outreach events. All members are encouraged to support this worthy endeavor.

These activities remind us that HSS cannot continue to inaugurate new projects without a more robust financial endowment. Hence we are initiating a Strategic Planning process

to help us determine how we want the Society to look in the future. Andrew Searle will be helping us with this project, and we hope that members will help us following the Business Meeting by participating in a Strategic Planning activity.

Secretary's Report: Marsha Richmond

Approval of Minutes (Available at www.hssonline.org/Meeting/; a number of paper copies were distributed.)

Motion to approve the 2012 Minutes, seconded, and approved.

Executive Director's Report: Jay Malone

Attendance at the Boston meeting is around 850, which makes it the largest gathering we've ever had. Thanks to everyone who helped put the meeting together. We are looking forward to meeting in Chicago in November 2014. JOSEPHUS will be organizing another public outreach event, thanks to a generous donation by a member.

Greg Macklem has done a wonderful job organizing the meeting, and we're very fortunate that he brought his lovely wife Heather to assist. Her skills as a physician have been especially welcomed!

The Council voted to approve the renewal of the agreement with Notre Dame, and he is very happy with all the resources and support the University has provided to the HSS Executive Office.

He has submitted a new application for a NSF travel grant and awaits word on the outcome.

The meeting of the IUHST (International Union of the History of Science and Technology) last July in Manchester was very successful. A healthy contingent of HSS members was present, and we hope that even more might attend the next meeting in July 2017 to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This is the last annual meeting that Lynn and Bernie will attend in their capacity as Society officers, and Jay thanked them for their steady service to HSS.

Discussion: Will the Elizabeth Paris lecture only be at the meeting with PSA? No. While the first lecture will take place next year when we do meet with PSA, the lecture will be offered every year.

Treasurer's Report: Adam Apt

There are extra copies of the 2013 Treasurer's Report available if anyone would like to examine the Society's financial status. Overall we are in good shape. He aims for the draw on the endowment to be under 4% each year, and so far we have been able to meet

this goal. Our new relationship with the Descartes Center to host the Editorial Office benefits the Society, and the Executive Office has been thrifty in their operating budget.

We have some extra funds allocated for moving the Editorial Office, and also for the Strategic Planning process. Even with these extra expenses, he believes that we will be able to stay on target with the approved budget.

Editor's Report: Bernie Lightman

We are in the transition phase of moving *Isis* to a new institution. Floris Cohen will be visiting York University after the Boston meeting to discuss details. He's quite happy to report that *Osiris* is very healthy, selling more copies and with new issues in the pipeline. The *Critical Bibliography* is going extremely well, with Stephen Weldon planning new initiatives for utilizing the Society's bibliographic data.

Committee Reports: (Electronic copies of the reports are available at: www.hssonline.org/Meeting/Business Meeting.)

Jay summarized each report.

1. The Committee on Research and the Profession (CoRP) has looked at resources for Data Management Plans. Their report, which is available in the October Newsletter, was assisted by several volunteers, and Jay thanks those who participated in putting it together.

The Graduate Program survey found that almost 50% of those in History of Science graduate programs are not members of the Society. We will be encouraging these individuals to join HSS.

2. The Committee on Meetings and Programs (CoMP) discussed the possible first HSS meeting ever outside America, exploring the possibility of meeting in Utrecht, Netherlands in 2019. Meeting locations and dates are set through 2018:
 - 6-9 November 2014 (joint meeting with PSA) - Chicago, Illinois
 - 19-22 November 2015 - San Francisco, California
 - 3-6 November 2016 - Atlanta, Georgia
 - 9-12 November 2017 - Toronto, Ontario
 - 1-4 November 2018 - Seattle, Washington
3. The Committee on Education (CoE) has been very active. They organized a workshop last summer for K-12 teachers at Notre Dame with the aim of helping teachers include history of science lessons in their classroom. Last Spring Jay represented HSS at the National Science Fair in Washington, D.C. This presence is very important to the public image of the Society.
4. The Committee on Publication's (CoP) main activity was the selection of a new Editor, successfully concluded with the appointment of Floris Cohen as the new Editor of *Isis*.

New Business

1. Revision of the Statutes. Jay read the new protocol approved by Council allowing for members to conduct business electronically in between annual meetings. Thus we need to revise the HSS Statutes accordingly. He asks the membership to approve this change.

The motion to revise the Statutes was made and seconded.

Jay read the proposed revision to Statute 4.13:

“The President of the Society may conduct an email poll of Council members on matters that require Council action before the next scheduled meeting. Issues submitted to an email poll shall be considered approved if supported by the majority of the responses received by the President within seven (7) days of the mailing of the ballot.”

Discussion. Is this language meant to stipulate that discussion will happen? Would it happen otherwise? Jay: The discussion period of a week is distinct from the voting period so that the call for a vote can be conducted secretly. How can members become involved in business before Council? Lynn notes that much of the business Council conducts is not necessarily available to members.

A suggestion was made that Council business should be made available to members. Marsha noted that there was a proposal a year or so ago for the Executive Committee and Council to produce an annual report that would itemize all the business transacted by the Society over the course of each year. This would be made available to the membership on the HSS website.

⇒ A motion was introduced proising that an annual report be made available to members on the HSS website. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Discussion of the previous motion. Friendly amendment by Rodion Kosovsky to approve the change to Statutes only for a period of five years. Jay: This may not be necessary, since we are required by the Bylaws to review both the Bylaws and the Statues every three years.

Motion to revise the statutes was approved unanimously.

2. Sexual Harrassment Policy

CoRP, under the leadership of Audra Wolfe, has been discussing new language for a new HSS policy to address sexual harassment, climate issues at the annual meeting, and other related matters. This is an important issue for the Society to consider, and CoRP will be advising Council about addressing this issue. Lynn has asked CoRP to contact the EC if they need any information in formulating a policy.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

A Strategic Planning exercise was conducted by Andrew Searle.

The EC has chosen a management tool created by Peter Drucker, which provides a framework for an organization to engage in a process to determine its mission.

The Drucker self-assessment tool is based on 5 principles:

- What is the current mission?
- Challenges?
- Opportunities?
- Does the mission need to be revisited?

Members broke into 4 groups to discuss these questions.

The Strategic Planning meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.