

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Charles Sanders Peirce Society

27 February 2014

Following the annual scholarly meeting, with papers by President James Liszka and Essay Contest winner Gabriele Gava, President Liszka called the meeting to order at 7:05 at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL.

1. Call for approval of the previous year's minutes

James Liszka asked whether there were any objections to approving the minutes of the 2011–2012 business meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

2. Report from the Executive Committee Meeting

James Liszka delivered the following report from the President and the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee of the Charles S. Peirce Society met on February 27, 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In attendance were James Liszka (President), Demetra Sfondoni-Mentzou (Vice-President), Cornelis de Waal, Robert Lane, and Richard Atkins. We received regrets from Shannon Dea (Secretary-Treasurer), Daniel Campos, and Giovanni Maddalena, who were unable to attend. Richard Atkins served as recorder for the meeting.

Society meeting at the Centennial Congress

Executive Committee members previously decided to both (a) hold an executive committee meeting at the Centennial Congress and (b) hold a forum in which to hold an open discussion on the role of the Society throughout the world and its future direction.

With respect to (a), it was decided that that executive committee will meet over lunch from 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. on the first day of the conference, Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Kees suggested making a lunch reservation at the hotel so that committee members will still be able to attend the 1:00 session. Item to be discussed at this meeting are (i) what motivation there is join the Society, (ii) how the Society can support the next generation of scholars, (iii) how we can improve the international profile of the Society, and (iv) sponsorship or co-sponsorship of national and international conferences or meetings on Peirce.

With respect to (b), we will hold an open forum on the role of the Society from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. on the first day of the conference, Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

The date and time for (b) were decided based on time and space constraints for the conference as a whole. As there is nothing except registration before 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Bob noted that

this will give anyone who wishes to attend the opportunity to attend. Concern was voiced about travelers who may be coming in for the conference on Wednesday morning. Bob noted that this time was nevertheless preferable to holding the meeting when other sessions are being held, holding it on the last day when many people may have already left, and he noted that many international travelers will be arriving on Tuesday.

Following Jim's recommendation, the structure of the forum will be as follows. First, several established scholars from the international community will give brief statements, five to ten minutes, both on what can be done to promote the study of Peirce's work in their country and on how the Society can support those studies. Second, following those comments, we will invite the audience's comments and suggestions both on what has been said and on what the Society can do in general to support the study of Peirce's work.

The several established scholars to give statements will be invited by the President (Demetra) with the assistance of the Secretary Treasurer based on members of the International Advisory Committee. Bob will share a list of who will be presenting at the conference. Kee noted that we should not limit the invitees only to those who will be presenting at the conference. Those who are not attending may nevertheless wish to submit comments. Others may attend even though they are not presenting and so may wish to make comments.

Demetra will chair the forum.

We shall have membership applications on hand at the meeting.

Possible grad student conference funding for Centennial Congress

Following the recommendation of Daniel Campos (communicated via email), the Society, with some qualifications, agreed to cover the cost of registration for graduate students traveling from outside the United States and Canada. Demetra (and Shannon via email) stated that this should be extended to post-docs, especially given the differences in academic structures between the United States and some other countries. Executive committee members agreed.

The first question addressed was how the grants should be administered. Again, following Daniel's suggestion, it was decided that we would waive the fees of grad students and post-docs and transfer funds from the Society directly to the Foundation. Daniel recommended this so as not to interfere with opportunities to receive funding from other sources or with visa application processes. Shannon also noted that this has administrative advantages in that checks do not need to be cut for every person whose registration costs are covered. She also noted that this helps grad students and post-docs in that they will not need to pay international check deposit fees.

Two further related questions were addressed: first, how should this be administered? Second, how much can we spend? With respect to the first question, Shannon recommended against an application process as this would be burdensome. Committee members agreed. It was noted that we have roughly \$13,000 in funds available. Bob stated that we should set \$7500 aside in case

of cost overruns from the Congress. That leaves roughly \$5500. At an estimated \$100–\$125 registration fee for the conference for graduate students and post-docs, that would cover 44–55 attendees, roughly one-fifth to one-quarter of the attendees. So, as long as there are not more than 44–55 attendees who are graduate students or post-docs, as seems unlikely, we should be able to cover their expenses. If that is indeed correct, it was decided that there should be no application process and instead that every grad student or post-doc's fees should be covered by the Society in the manner stated above. Bob stated that he would try to ascertain how many attendees are graduate students or post-docs to ensure that this plan will work.

A concern was raised that this would deplete the Society's account. However, it was noted that this excludes the \$7500 set aside for cost overruns and that this is a conservative figure.

Bob also noted that SAAP is providing \$2400 to support twelve students presenting at the conference with grants of \$200.

Purpose and Process for the Essay Contest

It has been some years since the executive has considered the process for the Peirce Society Essay Contest, and Daniel has pointed out (by email) that there have been some inconsistencies in our own statements of the purpose of the contest. Hence, the committee thought it was appropriate at this time to discuss the process and purpose of the contest.

One question to be addressed was who is to judge the contest, especially given changes in the structure and membership of committees in the Society. It was agreed that the Secretary-Treasurer shall administer the contest as always. Judges should be the President, the Vice-President, and the elected, non-*ex-officio* members of the committee. It was noted that this could give rise to a tie in voting and so we would need to establish a procedure in case there were a tie. It was decided that in the case of a tie the tied papers should be sent to the Peirce editor of the *Transactions*. As this is Bob and he will no longer be serving on the executive committee after this year, he would be able to serve in this capacity. He agreed to do so.

Committee members expressed that they were happy with the current process in which the contest is administered. However, Jim noted it would be helpful to have a list of questions that could serve as reference points during the evaluation process, much as journals sometimes send along questions to serve as points of evaluation for papers. Kees stated that he has a list of questions that could be used for this purpose and that he would provide them to Shannon for the future administration of the contest.

With respect to the purpose of the contest and apparent inconsistencies in our own statements, members present at the meeting agreed that the purposes should be to draw attention to high-quality work being on Peirce by graduate students and recent Ph.D.s and to stimulate interest in Peirce scholarship among younger scholars. The contest also serves the purpose of increasing contributions to the *Transactions*.

Society activities (including AGM) 2014–2015

As already noted, it was decided the executive committee will meet in Lowell on July 16, 2014, from 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

It was also decided that we would once again meet at the Central APA next year. However, Bob suggested we reconsider this in the following year as the Eastern APA will then begin meeting after the New Year rather than between Christmas and New Year.

In other business, Demetra proposed holding a conference on Peirce and Aristotle at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies, of which she is President. She suggested the conference be held in late May, 2015. This would be roughly one year before an international congress on Aristotle will be held there. Committee members expressed interest in having such a conference and that the Society might help to sponsor or co-sponsor it.

3. Report from the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*

Cornelis de Waal presented the following report from the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*:

The *Transactions* had good year again. With the deadline for submissions to the 2014 Congress passed, we are beginning to see an increase in Peirce submissions. Recently, we published a well-received special issue on Joseph Ransdell and his legacy, as well as an extensive discussion of Cheryl Misak's *The American Pragmatists*. A similar discussion of Philip Kitcher's *Preludes to Pragmatism* is forthcoming.

On June 30, 2013, which marks the end of IU Press's 2013 fiscal year, the *Transactions* had 3,087 subscribers (up from 2,886 and a 10% increase from 2011). Of these 228 received a paper copy of the journal (down from 254 and a 26% decrease from 2011). The number of individual subscribers was 172, a slight decrease from previous years's 179 subscribers and a decrease of 20% from 2011. The bulk of subscribers were institutional 2,834 (up from 2,707 and an 11 % increase from 2011).

The number of full-text (PDF + HTML) articles accessed through JSTOR came to 31,108 and those through Project Muse came to 7,312. The most popular article by far proved Martin Coleman's "The Meaninglessness of Coming Unstuck in Time," which was accessed 2,416 times.

Financially, the journal performed not as well as the year before. The *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$41,803 (down from \$46,751), of which 15%, equaling \$6270 went to the Peirce Society (down from \$7,013 in 2012, but roughly equal to the \$6315 of 2011). Nonetheless, a 10% increase in subscribers over the last two years netted a slight increase in royalties.

Cornelis de Waal
Editor-in-Chief

4. Financial Report

Richard Atkins delivered the following report on behalf of Shannon Dea:

This report is for the period beginning Feb 1, 2013 and ending Jan.31, 2014.

The Society's income during this period was \$7383.74

\$1089.30 in membership dues;
\$6270.44 in *Transactions* royalties; and
\$24.00 in interest.

The Society's expenditures during this period were \$10,828.21:

\$500.00 for winner of 2013-14 essay prize
\$44.71 for dinner for the 2012-13 essay contest prize winner;
\$410.55 for FISP (*Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie*) dues for
2013-2015;
\$25 wire transfer fees paid to Bank of Montreal for transfer of FISP dues;
\$83.40 for web-site fees;
\$45 to renew Society domain name peircesociety.org;
\$7500 to Charles S. Peirce Foundation to support International Centennial Congress;
\$2219.55 in assorted travel and accommodations costs (419.55 for ICC organizing
committee travel, \$1200 for executive travel to 2014 APA, \$600 for essay
prize winner travel to 2014 APA)

As of Feb. 20, 2014, the Society's assets were \$21,489.24, a decrease of \$3444.47 from
January 31, 2013.

The breakdown of the assets is:

\$5476.64 in checking,
\$15,937.74 in a money-market account,
\$74.86 in savings.

Shannon Dea, Secretary-Treasurer

5. Report from the Peirce Edition Project

André de Tienne delivered the following report from the Peirce Edition Project:

There is a somber mood at the Peirce Edition Project compared to previous years. This has been one of the PEP's most challenging years; André and his staff are working to rebuild things for better future.

Financially, the PEP can no longer count on funding from the NEH. The PEP applied for NEH funding two and three years ago. While the applications were highly reviewed and judged, they were rejected. (The Dewey and Royce editions have lately met the same fate with the NEH.) Seeking NEH funding is a lot of work and the returns are very small; it has become a waste of time for the PEP to apply.

Progress on volumes 7,9 and 11 has not been great because of a shortage of crucial staff to do the work. The staff complement at IUPUI includes André, two staff members, and two graduate students. Publication in 2014 is unlikely; volume 9 may be published in 2015, if all goes well.

The PEP needs support, in particular philosophers to work on the manuscripts and to develop funding lines for this work.

An additional challenge is the transition to new technology— the old technology cannot be relied on for future volumes. The good news is that there has been progress in the development and implementation of STEP, the new technology. PEP staff are also working on another platform, CORPUS—an online platform to publish great deal of edition. This platform has been fully prototyped by school of informatics at IUPUI and looks like it will work well for PEP.

Delivered verbally by André De Tienne, Director and General Editor, PEP
Recorded by Richard Atkins; transcribed by Shannon Dea.

6. Report from the Nominating Committee

Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou delivered the following report from the Nominating Committee on behalf of Douglas Anderson.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Douglas Anderson, with Mats Bergman and Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou as members, propose the following candidates:

- Ivo Ibri for Vice President (2014-15, succeeding to the presidency in 2015-16);
- Ahti Pietarenin for at-large member (2014-2017);
- Jerome Vogel for webmaster (2014-2017).

Continuing positions are as follows:

- Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou, President (2014-15);
- Shannon Dea, Secretary-Treasurer (through 2014-2015);

- Executive Committee: Richard Atkins (through 2014-15); Daniel Campos (through 2015-16); Cornelius de Waal (ex officio)

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Anderson
Chair, Nominating Committee

James Liszka called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he called for a vote. The slate from the nominating committee was unanimously approved.

7. Report from the IOC of the Peirce Centennial Congress

Jaime Nubiola delivered the following report on behalf of the IOC of the Peirce Centennial Congress.

The preparations of the Charles S. Peirce Centennial Congress to be held in UMass Lowell in July 16-20 are going well. I will highlight the following points:

1. ATTENDANCE. We are happy to report that we now predict that Congress attendance will reach 250 or more people! The meeting rooms at conference hotel – the University of Massachusetts Lowell Inn and Conference Center (ICC) – will be able to accommodate this large crowd; however, in order to have enough hotel rooms, we will need at least one overflow hotel. The Local Organizing Committee has already contracted with one additional hotel in Lowell. All invited speakers, as well as everyone who has had a panel, paper or short contribution accepted for presentation, has been notified via email about the hotel situation and encouraged to reserve a room at the ICC as soon as possible. As of now, there are still 10 hotel rooms available at the ICC, but we expect that to change quickly once the program schedule is announced. Once that happens, we will post information about the conference hotel and overflow hotel on the Congress website.
2. PROGRAM. Matthew Moore and Rosa Mayorga, the co-chairs of the Program Committee, are working on the program schedule now. It will be published on the web as soon as it is completed around mid-March.
3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT. In the last few weeks, thanks to the efforts of John Kaag the Congress has received a commitment of significant financial support from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. This will help us keep registration costs for the Congress as low as possible.
4. REGISTRATION. We hope to have online registration for the Congress ready by late March. However, we cannot set the final costs for registration or for the closing banquet until the conference hotel has provided us with final costs for food and beverage services; we hope that we will have that information from them by early March. Current plans are to offer different

costs of registration for professors and students and different costs for early registration and late registration.

And last I want to express my deepest gratitude to Mathew and Rosa of the Program Committee, to John Kaag for the local arrangements and very specially to Bob Lane who is the driving force of the Congress.

Jaime Nubiola, Chair, Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress Committee

8. Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.