

## **Minutes of the Charles S. Peirce Society 2025 Annual Business Meeting**

The 2025 annual general meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society was held in conjunction with the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy on March 14, 2025, at Howard University in Washington D.C.. At the discretion of President Hans Joas, Director Aaron Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

### **I. Moment of Silence**

The business portion of the annual meeting began with a moment of silence for Peirce scholars and related academics who passed during the past year: Eric Dayton, Christopher Hookway, and John Woods.

### **II. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Meeting**

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting had been posted online. Aaron Wilson asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made, motion was seconded, all approved

### **III. Report from the Executive Committee**

Aaron Wilson presented the following report from the executive committee.

The executive committee this past year included was comprised of Hans Joas (President), Cornelis de Waal (Vice President & *Transactions* general editor), Yi Jiang (Former President), myself, Aaron Wilson (Director), Scott Metzger (Outreach officer and webmaster), and our three at large members, Francesco Bellucci, Maria Regia Brioschi, and Diana Heney.

The activity of the committee this past year was relatively modest. We have made no significant updates, since the previous year, to our website, to our funding guidelines, or to our Constitution, the last which can be updated only through a vote put to our entire membership.

The modest activities include continuing to put out the two newsletters, one in the Spring and one in the Fall, which include, among other things, lists of recently published works relating to Peirce. Thanks very much to Scott Metzger and the rest of the committee for their assistance with those. The newsletters have been going out to anyone who wishes to subscribe to them, and currently we have nearly 1,000 subscribers worldwide. We have started to put out some special letters to our subscribers. One was to correct an oversight on our part. In Fall newsletter not include John Woods, a relatively recent Society president, as members of our committee learned of his passing just shortly after the newsletter went out.

#### **A. Support for the Pike County Historical Society**

Also, we put out a special letter to our subscribers in support of the Pike County History Society and Museum in Milford, PA, which houses a collection of items from Charles and Juliette Peirce. We encouraged subscriber to support the museum through a \$25 individual membership. We also mentioned in that letter that the executive committee had voted for the Society to become a museum sponsor at \$500 a year, where each the committee will need to vote whether to continue that sponsorship. Originally, the director of the Historical Society & Museum, Lori Strelecki, reached out to us as part of fundraising effort and asked if we would consider becoming annual museum sponsors for \$5,000 a year. While our committee considered a one-time \$5,000 donation to the museum to be decided upon by a vote put to our members, there was no way we could financially sustain such sponsorship year after year.

However, Cornelis de Waal and Aaron Wilson met with the museum director over Zoom, and during that meeting it was clear that museum was not receiving sufficient local support, with the director mentioning that she was the Museum's only full-time employee, even having to do some of the cleaning there. Given that Museum houses so many items from Peirce, and given that it is part of our Society's mission to preserve Charles Peirce's legacy, the committee voted to support the museum as much as we reasonably could.

#### **B. Support for the Hookway Memorial Lecture at the University of Sheffield**

Aside from this request for financial support, we received very few requests for financial support through our normal funding procedures. The Peirce Society and its executive committee continue to prioritize the financial support of junior academics, including graduate students and those in the early years their academic careers. I regret to say that we received no funding requests from junior academics, despite the page on our website for funding requests and reminders in our newsletters our ability to provide modest financial support. I'm sure one of the items we will discuss this upcoming year is how we might further encourage junior academics to work on subjects related to Peirce.

In our funding guidelines we also start that we favor supporting projects that will celebrate Peirce's work and the international community of Peirce scholarship. We received one funding request of that sort, from the department of philosophy at the University of Sheffield, who wanted to hold a memorial lecture in honor of Chris Hookway, with the lecture to be delivered by Cheryl Misak. As both Chris and Cheryl are past presidents and fellows, we approved the request. The lecture will be held at Sheffield on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **C. Peirce Society Representation at the 2024 World Congress in Rome**

Lastly, we announced the previous year that, as members of the International Federation of Philosophical Society, the executive committee would organize and

hold two sessions at the 2024 World Congress of Philosophy, inviting 6 distinguished international speakers known for their work on Peirce, including Lucia Santaella, Jaime Nubiola, Rosa Mayorga, Susan Petrilli, Andre de Tienne, Deping Lu, and Cornelis de Waal. We offered the speakers some modest financial support, except for de Waal, as our constitution prohibits executive committee members from receiving financial support for scholarly activities. Executive committee members Yi Jiang and Maria Regina Brioschi chaired the sessions, and the sessions were a great success.

Finally, in April at the Pacific APA in San Francisco, the Peirce Society will be holding an Author-meets-Critics sessions on Richard Atkins recent book, *Peirce on Inference: Validity, Stength, and the Community of Inquirers*. The critics will include Chiara Ambrosia, Jeff Kasser, and Francesco Bellucci, and our intention is to invite members of the Society join us for it over Zoom. Of course, if you'll be in San Francisco for the Pacific APA meeting, we strongly encourage to join us in person.

We did not hold Society sessions at the Eastern or the Central APA this year.

We would like to remind all members, those who have individual subscriptions to the *Transactions* and those who have paid dues, that they are always welcome to email the executive committee with ideas for events or initiatives, or for support.

#### **IV. Report from the Editor-in-Chief of the Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society**

Editor-in-Chief and Vice-President Cornelis de Waal read the following report:

During the 2024 calendar year we produced four issues of the Transactions. The number of quality submissions to the journal remains low, especially in the non-Peirce segment. Fortunately, this year's Peirce Essay Contest provided us with some promising papers. In 2024 we published a most interesting book symposium on Tom Short's Charles Peirce and Modern Science, as well as a wide variety of papers on Peirce, pragmatism and American philosophy more generally. We have a couple of things in the works, most of which are still very tentative. One, I think, I can safely report on is the Chris Hookway Memorial Lecture, which will be delivered by Cheryl Misak and Bob Talisse at the University of Sheffield on June 2 nd , 2025.

##### **The numbers:**

Over the last few years, we have been seeing a steady decline in subscriptions, and I am happy to report that this seems to have stabilized. At the end of IU Press's 2024 fiscal year (FY24), which runs from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the Transactions

saw a modest increase in subscriptions, from 2077 to 2,130, or almost 3%. Project MUSE subscriptions increased from 1929 to 2057, which comes down to an increase of close to 7%. The latter may be caused by the termination of JSTOR's "Current Scholarship Program" about two years ago, which has resulted in a centralization of current journal issues at Project MUSE (JSTOR has a three-year "moving wall").

In contrast to the Project MUSE increase, we continue to see a reduction in individual subscriptions, and a significant one at that. Excepting Project Muse, we had only 73 subscribers total as of June 30, 2024, down from 148 the year before, which is a year-to-year reduction of over 50%. Of these 73 subscribers, 45 are individual subscribers (down from 86) and 28 are institutional (down from 62). As for the former, this may be at least partially related to our recent change in membership structure.

We are also seeing a dramatic reduction in the number of print subscriptions. Only 29 individual subscribers still receive a physical copy (down from 58) and only 11 institutions do (down from 45). This means that we only sent out 40 copies. To set this a bit in perspective, fifteen years ago, in FY09, we still counted 321 print subscribers. As in previous years we sold no individual print issues. The total cost of the print edition is \$3742, which comes down to \$93.54 per subscriber, not including other journal related costs such as typesetting. (Institutional print subscription is \$93.50; individual print subscription is \$48.40.) In FY24, the Transactions made a gross profit of \$ 40,776.40, which is roughly \$2,500 less than the gross profit in the previous three years, or an almost 6% decline. Of this 15% went to the Peirce Society, which amounts to \$6,116.46, down from \$6,540.25.

**Conclusion:**

For the moment, it is still reasonable for us to retain the print edition despite financial losses, but this is certainly something I'm keeping an eye on. More troublesome are the cuts that are being proposed at the federal level regarding the indirect cost distribution on federal grants, which if implemented is likely to negatively impact the budgets of US University Libraries, which could result in a decline of our Project MUSE subscriptions going forward.

**V. 2025 Financial Statement for Charles S. Peirce Society (January 1st 2024 to January 1st 2025)**

Aaron Wilson presented the following financial statement.

The financial report is for the fiscal year beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, our account balances were:

IMCU Checking Account: \$6,270

IMCU Interest-Bearing: \$55,384

Bank of America Checking: \$293

For total Assests at \$61,947

NOTE: I opened the Bank of America Checking account that year, with approval with the rest of the executive committee, because IMCU was giving me a lot of trouble doing international transfers. I had to set up an appoint each time to talk with someone there, and go through some other steps, that the process was so time consuming that at first I used my own personal Bank of America account to complete the wire transfers, which made transfer much easier. But of course I didn't want to keep using my own personal account and reimbursing myself, so I opened a business checking for the Society at Bank of America. However, this business checking is costing the Society \$192 a year, so I'll keep looking out for less costly alternative to do non-time consuming wire transfers.

Revenue:

\$1,170 Interest from our Money-Market savings account.

\$6,116 Royalties from the *Transactions*.

\$436 Direct dues from members

\$7,722 Total revenue for fiscal year 2024

Expenditures:

\$5000 For the Peirce Prize Winner and for Support for the Distinguished Speakers at the 2024 World Congress

\$1500 Reimbursement to Executive committee members for expenses incurred for the annual general meeting and for 2024 world congress, which includes things like dinners and travel expenses when the EC member is travel just for a Society function.

\$339 Mailchimp

\$224 FISP dues

\$192 Business checking maintenance fee

\$205 Zoom

\$175 A/V APA

\$120 Wordpress

\$21 Online tax service

\$7,776 Total Expenses

So while our expenses last year slightly exceeded our revenue, our budget for support for Peirce Scholarship, which included the Word Congress sessions, is based on the previous year's revenue, and our 2023 revenue was \$13,942 --- is much larger, one because we received a \$5,000 donation that year from former president Yi Jiang, and two because the Royalties we received nearly \$900 more in royalties from the IUP. So, it was based on that revenue that we calculated our budget for support for Peirce Scholarship, which under the Constitution is 2/3 of the revenue, which was \$9,294.

## **VI. Nominations and Elections for the Executive Committee**

Aaron Wilson announced that President Hans Joas appointed a nominating committee composed of Rossella Fabbrichessi, Rosa Mayorga, and Gary Cook, who returned 1<sup>st</sup> choices for nominees for both offices, Shannon Dea for Vice President and Cassiano Terra Rodrigues for at-large member. A message was sent to members on February 10, announcing the two-week window for members to make alternative nominations. We received no alternative nominations. On February 26, an email ballot went out to members to approve the election of Shannon for Vice President and Cassiano for at-large member, and members who voted overwhelmingly approved them.

## **VII. Other Business**

Aaron Wilson announced that the location and date of 2026 Annual General Meeting is to be announced at a later time.

Vincent Colapietro recommended that a greater effort be made for the Peirce Society to maintain a presence at all three APA meetings.

Other members recommended using alternative services to support international transfers than keeping the Bank of American banking account open.

## **VIII. Installment of New President and Adjournment**

The meeting ended with applause for Hans and Francesco for their service to the executive committee, and with Hans passing the torch to Cornelis de Waal who then installed as president.