

Minutes of the August 7, 2009 ASR Council meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Michele Dillon at 6:15 p.m. There was not a quorum of voting Council members present, as a result reports were simply entered.

Michele reported briefly on her term of office and thanked those who particularly helped her in respect to the 2009 program. She also noted that the transition to Oxford University Press had been for all intents and purposes successfully completed.

Fred Kniss ask for a revision to the agenda so that the candidate the committee was proposing as the next editor of *SoR*, Scott Schieman, could be introduced. Scott both answered questions and shared some of his visions for how he would work and how the journal could develop. The matter was then postponed until a meeting could be held with a quorum present.

Bill Swatos circulated the minutes of the August 2008 Council meetings and his Executive Officer's report. He noted particularly the downturn in investment income and principal, the former of about 2/3s—the latter less dramatic. Inasmuch as the budget includes the income side as operating funds, the reduction there is quite significant. It appears to have been fortunately off-set by a one-time increase in royalty income, as we are simultaneously receiving royalties earned in 2008 during our own publication of *SoR*, and 2009 income from the Oxford contract. If there is a relatively quick turn-around from present recession conditions, it is possible that our income could once again move ahead in 2011. On a separate issue, he also reinforced his decision to retire as Executive Officer at the end of his present term—and suggested that steps be taken toward finding a successor.

Melissa Wilde reported briefly on the 2009 program, and both she and Bill commented on the significant decline in the number of presenters/attendees at this year's meeting, Bill noting especially the decline in hotel room-take, which imposes additional costs on the Association even as its income from the meeting shrinks, creating a kind of double-whammy effect with respect to budget.

The Nominations & Elections report had been submitted in advance by Mary Jo Neitz and was received. Peter Beyer was elected 2011 President, and Gerardo Marti, Mansoor Moaddel, and David Smilde were elected to Council.

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Website was deferred to Monday. There was no report from the Membership Committee or the International Liaison Committee.¹ The McNamara report was received. The Fichter Award report was deferred to Monday. There was no report from the Finance Committee.

David Yamane introduced a written report as Editor of *SoR*. It was the general consensus that the relationship with Oxford has now been stabilized and that the initial delays were worth it in respect to the final product. Council expressed its appreciation to David for his work in seeing this process through to completion.

¹ The International Liaison Committee was subsequently received by the Executive Officer.

Bill Swatos distributed a written report on the Religion and the Social Order series that simultaneously indicated the successful publication of another volume but concerns about the stability of Brill's operation in light of the resignation of the editor currently responsible for the series compounded by a lack of communication from Brill, including having no display at the ASR book exhibit this year nor a supply of the new volume available.

Rhys Williams spoke briefly about the 2010 program and the kinds of themes he hoped to emphasize through joint sessions with ASA. One of these has been confirmed, while two others are under consideration.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

William H. Swatos, Jr.
Executive Officer

Minutes of the August 10, 2009 ASR Council Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Rhys Williams at 4:30 p.m. Additional voting members present were Peter Beyer, Michele Dillon, Gerardo Marti, Mansoor Moaddel, Robin Perrin, and Melissa Wilcox.

Rhys announced the appointment of Peter Kivisto as Publications chair and an *ad hoc* Executive Officer search committee to consist of himself, Peter Beyer, and Michele Dillon. The rest of his appointments were reserved until the committee memberships are finalized.

Gerardo Marti reported briefly on plans for the 2010 program. There was a somewhat wide-ranging discussion of the problems of this year's attendance and the perennial issues of how ASR should related to ASA. Bill Swatos noted that contracts are normally written two years in advance, but there are sometimes "windows" for adjustments at certain points. He observed that a number of accommodations were made in this year's program to stretch it out with respect to the three days of meetings vis-à-vis limited attendance, and that one alternative, should this persist, would be to go to a two-day meeting. The meeting seemed to come to a consensus that we would operate in 2010 as we have heretofore and then make a further determination about an isolated instance versus the start of a new trend. Rhys also indicated that he intends to make membership, and especially graduate student membership, a priority during his presidency.

The three deferred reports from the August 7 meeting were then taken up.

The Fichter Committee's proposal of priorities for the coming triennium was considered. M/Williams, 2/Beyer a substitute motion that only the first priority of Women, gender and religion should be advertised during this triennium. Carried unanimously. The Committee's recommendation that the competition should be shifted to an electronic submission process only, beginning in 2010, was accepted unanimously.

On behalf of the Publications Committee, Fred Kniss moved the name of Scott Schieman for 2011-13 editor, with a stipend package not to exceed \$10,000 (to be negotiated between Swatos and Schieman). Carried unanimously.

M/Williams, 2/Moaddel to revamp the ASR Web site. Carried unanimously.

M/Beyer, 2/Wilcox to revise the proposed 2010 budget to reduce the proposed awards and annual meeting lines such that the amount allocated for the project not exceed \$9,000. Carried unanimously.

M/Beyer, 2/Moaddel that the members of the committee and council be polled about whether to hire Levers or Lust. Carried.

The meeting adjourned by common consent at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wm. H. Swatos, Jr., Executive Officer