

Minutes (Summary)
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Society for Classical Studies

May 1 2024, 12:30-2:00 PM EDT
held via Zoom

Directors in attendance: Rosa Andújar, Clara Bosak-Schroeder, Catherine Connors, Catherine Conybeare, Joe Farrell, Alison Keith, Young Richard Kim, Suzanne Lye, Laura McClure, Elizabeth Mercier, Carlos Noreña, Kirk Ormand, Teresa Ramsby, Matthew Roller, Ruth Scodel, Zoé Thomas; and along with Interim Executive Director John Vitali (ex officio).

Regrets were received from Directors Celia Schultz, Nandini Pandey, and Craig Williams were absent. Director Ramsby had to leave before the end of the meeting.

Zachary Slates, the newly appointed and incoming Executive Director, was present as a guest, his first official day of employment being May 6.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Zachary Slates

President Alison Keith called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM EDT and invited all Board members in attendance to introduce themselves to Zach Slates, the incoming Executive Director. Mr. Slates then offered some remarks.

2. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 6 April 2024 were approved.

3. Business arising – addressed in the President’s Report

4. President’s Report

President Keith has commissioned a sub-committee to review the American Office of *l’Année Philologique*. Chaired by President-Elect Kirk Ormand, this committee will report in the fall with specific recommendations. Membership: Kirk Ormand (Chair); Catherine Connors, Joe Farrell, Suzanne Lye, Craig Williams.

5. Interim Executive Director’s Report

Interim Executive Director John Vitali reported that this will be his last board meeting, thanked the board for its support and cooperation during his period of appointment, and offered the board suggestions for ways to do business somewhat differently going forward. The Society is now moving forward on the financial front, in terms of figuring out what our resources are and how we know.

6. Discussion of 2028 and 2029 Annual Meetings

President Keith then turned to the matter of the 2028 and 2029 meetings. Open discussion ensued, including results of investigation of university (rather than hotel) hosting of the annual meeting, whether at the traditional season or at another time; and having a smaller or additional summer meeting without AIA, but not abandoning the traditional winter collaboration. There was also discussion of creating an online, SCS-only summer meeting with a theme, which would be much smaller and really very distinct intellectually and socially from the January meeting. VP for Program Rosa Andújar noted that the Program Committee wouldn’t have the bandwidth to do

a second meeting per year and suggested that maybe an affiliated group (depending on theme) or specially constituted committee could be enlisted to help bring such a meeting off.

7. Other Business

An announcement of Zach Slates' appointment as Executive Director is going out to the membership next week.

President Keith proposed a vote of thanks to John Vitali for his six months of service, which has transformed how the Society understands itself and its non-profit context.

Finally, President-Elect Kirk Ormand reported that De Gruyter has proposed sponsoring a panel or the like at the annual meeting. The issues this proposal raises are (1) whether we want to allow a commercial operation to stick its toe into our programming, and (2) if so, how we charge them for using our program as, effectively, an advertising device for themselves. Perhaps there a commercializing opportunity here that would generate more meeting revenue or offset other costs, along the lines of strategies like branded lanyards.

8. Adjournment

President Keith adjourned the meeting at 2:02 PM.