

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

June 14 2024, 12:00-1:30 PM EDT  
held via Zoom

Directors in attendance: Rosa Andújar, Clara Bosak-Schroeder, Catherine Connors, Joe Farrell, Alison Keith, Suzanne Lye, Laura McClure, Elizabeth Mercier, Carlos Noreña, Kirk Ormand, Teresa Ramsby, Matthew Roller, Celia Schultz, Ruth Scodel, Craig Williams, Zoé Thomas. Executive Director Zachary Slates (non-voting) was present as well.

Regrets were received from Directors Catherine Conybeare, Young Richard Kim, and Nandini Pandey.

1. Welcome and Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, 1 May 2024

President Alison Keith called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM EDT.

The Minutes of the board meeting of 1 May 2024 were approved.

2. Business Arising – none.

3. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Zach Slates offered remarks about his work in his first month in the role. He noted that the Society was transitioning its banking operation from TD Bank to Chase, as the latter offers much better electronic banking processes that align better with our bill paying mechanisms. ED Slates also reported on his work with the Program Committee, and preparing the groundwork for the annual elections and voting to be up and running by late Summer.

4. Financial Report (12:15-12:45pm)

Senior Financial Trustee Laura McClure presented a financial report but noted that preliminary FY 2024 numbers (year closing June 30, 2024) are not yet available. ED Slates reported that our new automated/electronic bill paying system will allow us to monitor our finances in real time. He thanked YPTC (our new controller), and our now-departed interim ED John Vitali, for their work in beginning to get our financial house in order. SFT McClure then noted that we are also going to open a CFP for a new auditor in due course. She added that the Finance Committee has established the goal of creating greater fiscal transparency with the Board and membership. We will eventually post the annual Form 990 to the website, and the Board of Directors will receive comprehensive quarterly reporting so that it can make decisions about resource allocation in light of up-to-date and accurate financial information.

She then informed the Board that the Digital Papyrology Endowment has indicated its intention to withdraw its own endowment funds (ca. \$425K) from the SCS's endowment and to entrust these funds to a different entity.

*The motion to approve the DPE's request to withdraw and transfer these funds elsewhere was approved unanimously.*

SFT McClure also moved that the Board approve the addition of two more appointed non-voting members of the Finance committee from outside SCS, with voice but without vote. These new appointments would be individuals with special expertise in nonprofit finance and higher education finance, per the recommendation of John Vitali in his outgoing report.

*The motion to add two non-voting members to the finance committee along the lines discussed above, with the appointments to be made later in the year, was approved unanimously.*

#### 5. Annual Meeting Update – 2025, 2026, 2027

ED Slates provided an update on annual meeting planning toward Philadelphia in January 2025. Currently SCS and AIA are considering expanding the virtually-available sessions from about 20% (what we managed in Chicago) to about 50%, with a roughly proportional expansion in AV costs. Regarding signing a contract for 2027: reasonable bids have come in from Chicago (separate bids from two different hotels), San Antonio, Baltimore, and Boston, all with certain benefits and drawbacks; but our initial prospective site of Atlanta turns out not to be possible after all due to very high costs. The question resurfaced of trying out a university-based model (e.g., meeting in Toronto, meeting hosted at the University of Toronto, having attendees find and book their own hotels in the city). President Keith reported that she and Zach Slates had floated this idea with their AIA counterparts, who were not terribly warm to the idea. Nevertheless, President Keith said she'd look more deeply into what the logistics and costs of such a model would be regarding the University of Toronto. There was lively discussion about the politics and pragmatics of holding (or not holding) our meetings in states with restrictive reproductive health laws or social justice laws/cultures. Board members located in red states talked about the complexity of the legal and social landscapes in which they live, urging for a variety of reasons that the board not simply reject the idea of meeting in these states out of hand.

*A motion to pursue the more advantageous of the two Chicago bids for 2027 was approved.*

#### 6. VP Program Update

Vice President for Program Rosa Andújar reported on the Program Committee's voting and decision making, as that committee is now assembling the program for Philadelphia. 291 individual abstracts were submitted, with 207 accepted; these will constitute 45 paper sessions, about half the total number of sessions of all sorts (90-some) that SCS will put on in Philadelphia. The Program Committee also reviewed the dual appearance policy, and the matter of waivers for visitors, and has clarified the policy for dual appearance: delivering a response is now explicitly *not* considered a "substantive" appearance, and so can coexist with delivering a regular paper or other "substantive" appearance.

#### 7. VP Publications & Research: Translation Award

VP for Publications and Research Craig Williams briefly introduced a text for a proposed prize in translation. Discussion ensued about whether the proposal should include translations from languages apart from Latin and Greek, whether poetry and prose should alternate, and especially whether any money from the society proper should be attached to this prize (no other SCS-allocated awards have money attached from the society's own funds).

*A motion to establish this award largely as described in the proposal was approved, but two "friendly" amendments, was passed unanimously.*

**Action:** the creation of up to two Awards annually for Outstanding Literary Translation by an SCS member, published within the past three calendar years. The translated work shall be a primary text in Ancient Greek or Latin.

#### 8. VP Professional Matters Update

VP for Professional Matters, Ruth Scodel, signaled that a motion concerning eligibility for Contingent Faculty funding to attend the annual meeting of the Society would be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

#### 9. Other Business

Senior Financial Trustee Laura McClure remarked that UNC-Asheville is closing its Mediterranean Studies program and laying off faculty. President Keith has referred this matter to Jeffrey Henderson, who runs the Classics Advisory Service.

#### 10. Adjournment

President Keith adjourned the meeting at 1:47 PM.