

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

13 September, 2024, 2:00-3:30 pm EST  
Zoom

Directors in attendance: Clara Bosak-Schroeder, Joseph Farrell, Alison Keith, Young Richard Kim, Suzanne Lye, Laura McClure, Carlos Noreña, Kirk Ormand, Nandini Pandey, Matthew Roller, Celia Schultz, Ruth Scodel, Craig Williams, Zoé Thomas. Executive Director Zachary Slates (non-voting) was present as well. Teresa Ramsby joined the meeting at 2:47.

Directors Rosa Andújar, Catherine Connors, Catherine Conybeare, and Elizabeth Mercier were absent.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Minutes

President Alison Keith called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM EDT. The minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 14 June 2024 were approved, as were the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 27 June 2024.

2. Business Arising – none.

3. President's Report

President Alison Keith summarized her investigation into the possibility of hosting the SCS annual meeting in Toronto with all attendees booking their own accommodations. She reported that it does not seem feasible to adopt this model for the annual meeting given the numbers we aim to attract, the potential loss of hotel rebates, and AIA resistance. She also mentioned that CAMWS has been in touch with SCS officers about data regarding annual meetings.

President Keith remarked on some tweaks introduced to the Presidential Address / Awards Ceremony evening for the 2025 Philadelphia meeting, and commented on the logistics of the special Martha Graham dance event.

4. Executive Director's Report

ED Zach Slates reported briefly on upgrades to the SCS website, the progression of voting in the election, and the timing of opening registration for the 2025 meeting.

He then focused on the Society's financial situation and reporting. The past eight months have been devoted to sorting out our billing, payment schemes, banking, and overall taxonomy of categories of revenue and expenditure. He is also moving the annual audit forward in the year, so that we perform the primary work of the audit in early fall.

He then took the board through some summary financial data. Structurally our revenue derives principally from membership fees, grants, annual meeting revenue, some royalties and payments of various sorts, and the endowment draw we make every year (currently set at 4.5% of a 3-year trailing average). We closed FY 2024 with a deficit of about \$173,000 relative to break-even budgeting (while the approved budget for FY 2024 had in fact built in a ca. \$99,000 deficit relative to break-even). While the large deficit was covered by the markets in FY 2024, we must address the structural deficit by bringing our expenditures into line with our revenues plus scheduled endowment draw.

ED Slates suggested that we can reduce the deficit substantially in various ways in the short- to medium-term by negotiating a different and less expensive insurance policy, and perhaps reducing high service fees for Vanguard/Mercer's administration of our endowment funds. A wide-ranging discussion ensued about our *de facto* practice of "deficit budgeting" and how we manage it.

The budget proposed for FY 2025 shows a (budgeted) deficit of \$170K counting in the scheduled endowment draw, almost the same as our actuals for FY 2024, which we can still absorb for now. We plan to shrink that deficit during 2025 and beyond as we pursue the short- to medium-term expenditure reductions mentioned above.

*A motion to approve the budget for FY 2025 passed unanimously.*

## 5. Consent Agenda

- a) Motion to Name the SCS Outreach Prize for Mary-Kay Gamel proposed and seconded.

Action: passed unanimously

- b) Motion to add the following wording to the call for applications for Contingent Faculty Grants, as recommended by the Committee on Contingent Faculty, proposed and seconded:

The Committee gives preference to members of the SCS, individuals who teach at institutions in North America, and individuals who earned their highest degree at a North American institution.

Action: passed unanimously

- c) Motion to approve the revised SCS Elected officials and Committee Volunteer Form, as drafted, proposed and seconded. The volunteer form can be previewed at the following link: <https://forms.gle/BspErESdMKmjGw9M9>

Action: passed unanimously

- d) Motion to approve the SCS annual meeting dues schedule for Philadelphia PA, January 2-5, 2025 proposed and seconded.

Action: passed unanimously

## 6. President-Elect's Report

President-Elect Ormand reported on his committee's work on the costs and future of the American Office (AO) of *L'Année Philologique*. Considerable discussion ensued.

*A motion to authorize Mack Zalin to ask SIBC for an extraordinary disbursement of 15,000 Euros per year for the next three years, to help subvene costs of the AO was approved unanimously.*

## 7. Other Business

Discussion turned to the draft Census document. Several Directors suggested revisions in the wording of particular questions and proposed additional questions in certain sections, all of which President Keith undertook to communicate to the Data Committee for their consideration.

President Keith adjourned the meeting at 3:41 PM.