

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

Friday 22 November 2024, 3:30-5:00 pm EDT
Via Zoom

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

Directors Catherine Conybeare and Elizabeth Mercier were absent.

President Alison Keith called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

1. The Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of 11 October 2024 were approved unanimously.
2. Business Arising. President Elect Kirk Ormand reviewed the discussion of the October 11 meeting regarding the path forward for the American Office of APh. He reported that the central office of APh in Lille has approved a \$15,000 payment to us next year to help subvene the current costs of the AO, and this subvention can be reapplied for in subsequent years.
3. President's report.

President Keith Summaries of Board Meeting minutes from the first six months of 2024 will soon be posted publicly to the SCS website. Discussions are underway with Cambridge University regarding the Pearson Award, which is now insufficient to fully support students intending to take it up, to see if they can provide the balance of the funding. The Women's Classical Caucus has undertaken an initiative to provide some funding for members around trans wellness and reproductive healthcare. SCS has committed to advertising this resource, and timelines for applying for it, through our website and newsfeeds.

4. Executive Director's report.

Executive Director Slates reported on the conference upcoming in Philadelphia: as of 11/18/2024 there were 1,366 registered attendees, very close to last year's numbers. At 45 days out the room block is 57% full, compared to 60% at the same point last year.

ED Slates also reported on the Society's financials, reminding the board that we are not booking/showing conference revenue until after the conference, to better accord with GAAP, while in past years we booked conference revenue as it came in.

ED Slates noted that he has begun to work with JHU Press on our contract with them, which seems out of date and inadequately addresses current circumstances.

5. Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve correction of the wording in SCS Regulation §12(a) as outlined below, proposed and seconded:

Corrected wording:

12. The Nominating Committee

Established in 1903, it is governed in its operation by *By-Law 30*. The following Administrative Code for the Nominating Committee was adopted by the Directors at their meeting of December 29, 1974, and revised on September 29, 1984, November 7, 1992, December 30, 1997, and January 5, 2004, as a *Regulation* of the Society. It shall be maintained in current form by the Executive Director, who shall, upon the occasion of each amendment or set of amendments to the Code, distribute an amended copy to the Directors and to the members of the Nominating Committee. Directors and members of the Nominating Committee upon their election shall receive a copy of this Code in its latest amended form if it differs from that published on the Society's website.

(a)The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine members. Two members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected each year for three-year terms from candidates chosen by the Nominating Committee. In addition, the Immediate Past President of the Society serves as *ex officio* member of the Nominating Committee for one year; and the graduate student director and contingent faculty directors are *ex officio* members of the Nominating Committee for the duration of their terms on the Board of Directors. The senior elected members become co-chairs of the Nominating Committee each year.

Current wording:

(a)The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine members. Two members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected each year for three-year terms from candidates chosen by the Nominating Committee. In addition, the Immediate Past President of the Society, graduate student director and contingent faculty directors are *ex officio* members of the Nominating Committee for one year. The senior elected members become co-chairs of the Nominating Committee each year.

Action: passed unanimously.

6. Naming opportunity and Cribiore bequest.

President Keith remarked on the extraordinarily generous bequest from the estate of Raffaella Cribiore. This bequest arrives without donor restrictions; at our current 4.5% endowment draw, this gift, if restricted, would generate \$22,500 annually for our budget. President Keith suggested that it would be highly appropriate to honor Professor Cribiore in some way.

General discussion ensued about the question of attaching cash prizes to some of our awards that lack them, and/or whether any of the Cribiore gift would be board-restricted or would, rather, be board-directed as needed for this purpose or that.

A motion was proposed and seconded to designate the proceeds of this gift as unrestricted by the board.

Action: passed unanimously.

7. Best practices for more accessible conferences

Director Clara Bosak-Schroeder noted that current SCS Best Practices guidelines on accessible conferencing are out of date and would profit from revision, ideally before the Philadelphia meeting, so that presenters and presiders have up to date expectations and recommendations. Director Zoé Thomas volunteered to work with Director Bosak-Schroeder to revise and update this Best Practices document.

8. Communications and Outreach Division report from Vice President Carlos Noreña

A short written document accompanied this agenda item. Two motions were put forward (moved by VP Noreña, seconded by President-Elect Ormand): to merge the Committee on Public Information and Media into the Communications Committee; and to assign responsibility for the Forum Prize to the Outreach Prize Committee, which is to be renamed the Outreach Prizes Committee. The principal aims of these two changes are to reduce overlap between committees, clarify their responsibilities, simplify recruitment to committee service, and increase efficiencies across the Division.

Action: both motions passed unanimously.

Vice President Noreña then raised the issue of compensation for Communications Committee members for discussion. No motion was put forward regarding the Communication Committee's compensation, but the expectation is that further discussion of this matter will take place at the next board meeting and that a motion may be entertained at that point.

9. The board went into executive session.

There being no further business, President Keith adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.