

Minutes of the August 12, 2010 ASR Council meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Rhys Williams\* at 6:20 p.m. Present in addition to him were P. Beyer,\* J. Cavendish,\* L. Davidman,\* B. Denison, G. Marti, W. Mirola,\* D. Olson,\* S. Schieman, W. Swatos, M. Wilcox,\* M. Wilkinson, and D. Yamane, constituting a quorum (\*voting members of Council).

M/Davidman, 2/Olson to accept the agenda as circulated with the understanding that discussion of Old Business was not limited to the Web site. Carried.

Committee appointments were deferred until the second Council meeting, on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

M/Beyer, 2/Wilcox to accept the minutes of the August 2009 Council meetings. Carried.

Bill Swatos addressed the Executive Officer's report. He noted a growth in fund balances over against the prior year, but a continued loss against pre-2008 figures, with an expectation that these may not return to prior levels for sometime, if at all. This gain has improved operating funds cash-flow somewhat (in terms of dividend income), but we continue to receive no capital gains, which provide the basis for increasing our investment holdings—so they are likely to remain static for at least the remainder of 2010. Royalties from arrangements in place prior to the OUP contract have, however, continued to flow at a rate higher than anticipated, and these have reduced the necessity for any draw-down as yet from capital funds. On a separate issue, Swatos also reinforced his decision to retire as Executive Officer at the end of his present term, with a willingness to step down a year earlier, and there was some discussion as to how this process might best proceed. President Williams suggested that the *ad hoc* committee now be shifted to be himself, P. Beyer, and R. Finke, to which there was common-consent agreement. Swatos also asked consent from the Council to eliminate paper records of library subscribers from the pre-OUP era. M/Beyer, 2/Davidman to do so; carried. Bill concluded his report expressing his appreciation to David Yamane for his work in facilitating the transition of *SoR* to OUP.

Gerardo Marti reported on the 2010 program, and both he and Bill commented on the significant decline in the number of presenters/attendees at this year's meeting (consistent with last year and inconsistent with the growth trends that characterized the prior decade). One alternative adopted this year was to reduce generally to three sessions per time block, hence reducing the total number of potential sessions from 48 to 36. Bill reminded Council that the decline in hotel room-take 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. Bill also indicated that next year's meeting venue, Chicago, had a history of particularly good attendance, and there was a common consent decision that we would use next year's attendance as a bell-weather for setting the course for future meetings. As a result of this agreement, Bill will not seek a 2013 venue until 2011 attendance is clear. (2012 is confirmed in Denver. The 2013 meeting will be in Manhattan.)

The Nominations & Elections report had been submitted in advance by Michele Dillon and was received. Roger Finke was elected 2012 President, and Sally Gallagher, Jerry Park, and Richard Wood were elected to Council.

There was no Membership report. This, in combination with the declining meeting attendance, brought additional discussion of how to (re)build membership along with the question of whether it is reasonable to expect growth in membership in the near term—e.g., with the on-line availability of the journal, membership as the normal course for a person to have individual access to the journal cannot be assumed.

There was no report from the Membership Committee. The International Liaison Committee submitted a written report. The McNamara report was presented by chair Bill Mirola. No award was made this year. There were two submissions. The Fichter Award report was presented by chair Barbara Denison. One grant was extended this year to graduate student Emily Ronald (Boston University).

A meeting of the Finance Committee was scheduled for 2:40 p.m. Sunday.

David Yamane and Scott Schieman reported on editorial developments in re *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. Bill Swatos distributed a written report on the Religion and the Social Order series that indicated the successful publication of another volume. There was no additional Publications report.

Peter Beyer spoke briefly about the 2011 program and introduced program chair Michael Wilkinson.

Discussion then turned to the question of the nature of the ASR Web site and how to proceed to determine both what was desirable and what was possible, including the question of how it should be financed once it is redesigned (if it is redesigned). In particular whether this would be a direct responsibility of the executive officer or would be a delegated responsibility to a third party and, if so, how this would be funded. Further discussion was deferred to the Council meeting scheduled for Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

M/Olson, 2/Cavendish to adjourn. Carried at 8:50 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