

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 2008

THURSDAY, APRIL 10. PRESENT:

Megan Boler; Nick Burbules; Ron Glass; David Hansen; Chris Higgins; Kathy Hytten; Michael Katz; Kelly Kolodny ; Susan Laird; Jeff Milligan; Sasha Sidorkin; Paul Smeyers; Audrey Thompson

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- Michael went over the minutes commenting on the main items of the minutes. Hytten moved to approve, Boler seconded. Motion passes by consensus.
- President’s Report – Michael Katz
- Michael mentioned that the main issue of this meeting is the reconfiguration of the Yearbook production. A task force was constituted; it met at Oxford, prepared a report, and the issue will be forwarded to the membership.
- There was a proposal from Len Waks for PES to sponsor the International handbook of the Philosophy of Education. He has learned that we never sponsored a publication, and there are several similar projects going on.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS’ REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1989-90—>239 | 1996-97—>441 | 2003-04—>477 |
| 1990-91—>250 | 1997-98—>459 | 2004-05—>447 |
| 1991-92—>279 | 1998-99—>527 | 2005-06—>465 |
| 1992-93—>310 | 1999-00—>522 | 2006-07—>412 |
| 1993-94—>322 | 2000-01—>479 | 2007-08—>491 |
| 1994-95—>358 | 2001-02—>459 | |
| 1995-96—>465 | 2002-03—>445 | |



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: 188 PEOPLE PRE-REGISTERED.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Here is the snapshot of our assets:

| FUNDS | April 30, 2005 | April 19, 2006 | March 12, 2007 | April 9, 2008 |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| OPERATIONAL FUND | 53,131.19 | 48,063.60 | 53,704 | 73,903 |
| KNELLER LECTURE | 75,550.91 | 77,353.36 | 80,811 | 84,425 |
| LEGACY FUND | 20,355.15 | 21,079.73 | 21,059 | 21,614 |
| TOTAL | 149,037.25 | 146,496.69 | 155,574 | 179,942 |

Recent market fluctuations have not affected us significantly.

Discussion:

- David raises a question whether we invest in social responsible mutual funds. Michael also adds that it helps to have some advice to the Executive Director. Agreed that David will think about organizing such advice, perhaps in the form of an advisory group.
- Paul commented on membership: members do not have a lot of incentives to keep paying dues, and perhaps we made all the changes that are possible (differential fees are charged for the conference)
- Michael: We do not keep better track of turn-over of members.

- Sasha: Do we want to grow well beyond 450 members? The size of the program serves as a natural limit to the size of the society. People whose papers are never accepted eventually stop coming.
- David expressed preference to keep the membership committee and clarify its charge.
- Michael suggested we strengthen relationships with the regional organizations.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee and Hospitality Committee joint Report – Ron Glass and Kelly Kolodny.

- Ron : 105 submissions, 30 accepted (28 concurrent session papers and 2 general session papers); there were 50 Alt session and works in progress submissions, and 35 were accepted in some form or another. The alternative sessions are becoming too numerous, too much work for the program chair.
- Nick: they are valuable for recruitment.
- Ron continues: the new form is the dialogue between Bernstein and Nel Noddings. We will see how it goes, and perhaps we can continue the form. Another new format was proposed: alternative session as a general session. I was reluctant to do it, because of time, although Putnam/Cavell project was very substantial.
- The reviewers did a good job, and Ron received very few complaints from rejected authors.
- We moved Kneller lecture to a morning, Monday general session was also moved to the morning, rather than be half-empty.
- The program was finalized early, which may have contributed to higher attendance.
- Discussion ensued about the scope of the responsibilities of the Program Chair, the size of the Program committee. Kathy suggested that the Society pay for the course release or find another way of supporting the Program Chair
- Ron suggested a more permanent solution with the University of Illinois where OJS related work is done by UI staff and grad students. Nick supported the idea as being the most sensible way of supporting the Program Chair.

Kelly reported: the work began 1.5 year ago. We worked with Michael, Ron, hotel and other organizations. Six people will serve on the committee. Each will take a lead for certain days.

- Michael added: there will be two hospitality suites, in Ron's and Michael's rooms. The Society will provide drinks.
- Paul returns to the alternative sessions issue. Letting everyone know that GBPES is instituting the poster sessions, which helps young people to get institutional support. Megan suggested

accepting these poster presentations through a competitive process, and making them available on-line, with a possible threaded discussion. Paul: we can limit the word count for these.

- Jeff: I was an alternative session chair at Atlanta. The attendance was good, but it drops off at the end of the conference.
- Michael thanks Ron and Kelly for their wonderful, dedicated job performances.
- Election Committee update: Cris Mayo is the new member of the Executive Board, and Claudia Ruitenberg is the new COPA member. Audrey Thompson is selected the President-elect.
- Michael acknowledged the efficient and competent job of the Elections committee and its Chair Kal Alston, who deserves much credit.

4. OLD BUSINESS: YEARBOOK PRODUCTION REVISION – PAUL SMEYERS

- Michael: I would like to get your input on the process. How do we organize the deliberation process?
- Paul: There are still some issues to be considered. One issue is the cost. But what will we do with the money we are going to save? The second issue is that of the perception of the publication. Why would people submit papers if they do not result in a publication? Will people put a lot of effort in responses if they are not published in a hard copy? There are three options outlined in the proposal. The difference between PDF only version and the hard copy is only \$4,000. Do we want to save this money, and is it worth it? The Yearbook is very cheap; at \$35. If we increase it to, say \$55 a copy, this will increase the revenue. On the accessibility: the web format is accessible, but if we put everything on-line, no one will buy the hard copy. We can solve the accessibility problem with selling it as an e-book. In the end, I think moving to on-line will diminish the attractiveness of the conference.
- Michael: Paul is reframing the problem, opening up new possibilities, which may keep the question open for another year. Do we want to reconsider the three options?
- Audrey: Paul is asking us to reconsider the three options.
- Nick: I am not trying to push the Society towards any of the options. We will do it any way the Society wants us to do it.
- Chris Higgins: There is still perception that the Yearbook is the Proceedings. Perhaps there is a way to ensure both accessibility and credibility.
- Kathy: This issue gets more and more complicated...
- Megan: the Yearbook is not accessible on-line through library databases. Credibility and accessibility are both important. I want availability, but also accessibility similar to what Ed Theory has (through databases available through libraries).

- Nick: Blackwell is not interested in hosting the Yearbook in its present form. I am trying to push Blackwell to include the Yearbook in some way.
- David: Thanks for all who developed the proposal; it is a tremendous work. PES format, a paper and a response, is really precious, unparalleled in other societies. I would like us to keep doing it. My approach is conservationist. I worry about the option #2. We have cultivated the arts of writing a paper, and of writing a response. We need to take care of the tradition, to retain it, and make it stronger (there has been a slippage, people submit responses late). Perhaps we can make it more attractive, call it something else, for example the Journal of Philosophy and Education.
- Audrey: if responses are not included, people are not going to work hard on them. There is not much to be gained by revision.
- Ron: I am also not sure what we are gaining; we need to continue to publish a credible publication. We may want to address the access issue, but find a better way.
- Sasha: I don't think we are ready to make this decision yet.
- Michael: we cannot fail to address all three: credibility, quality of our conference, and the accessibility of the Yearbook. We need another solution, and rethink it, and then come to the Society with more options.
- Nick: I take it we want to keep the same hard copy production, keep 3 year window.
- Audrey: we should take the business meeting time to discuss, but not to make the decision.
- Michael: the decision today is this: we need to reframe the options before presenting them to the members for a decision.
- Michael: Let's thank Paul Smeyers for his work.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. TRANSITION FROM MICHAEL KATZ TO DAVID HANSEN

- David: I want to thank Michael and others for a lot of advice, lore, and information.
- Michael: David started early, and made good progress.
- David: Kevin McDonough made an exemplary job in negotiating with the hotel. We have the contract, great location. Debby Kerdeman is going to be the Program Chair.
- Michael: It is a serious business, and requires tremendous effort.
- Nick: Booking hotels three years in advance will lock into lower rates than two years in advance.

B. TRANSITION FROM SASHA SIDORKIN TO JEFF MILLIGAN.

- Sasha: Finances will stay with me till July 1; Jeff will take over the Updates immediately.
- Jeff: I am quite certain my department will give me a grad assistant for at least the first year.

C. COPA BY-LAW CHANGE—NICK BURBULES

- We have little continuity and need to maintain our relevance and value to the field. The jobs in philosophy of education are disappearing quickly, although we have many doctoral students and many people wishing to publish. The COPA by-laws change is to address these issues.
- Nick: PES has become focused on annual conference. Other societies devote efforts to promoting the field. Our website is not what it can be; we do not have a development plan. This has to do with the fact that presidents change so quickly. The proposal is not only to rename COPA, but also to provide venue for thinking about the field. Another part of it is to reshape the COPA meetings, and to include COPA Chair into the Executive board's meetings. The visibility of COPA's meetings and its Chair is at the center of this proposal. The jobs are disappearing, and we need to think about the field in a more strategic way.
- David: The proposal is not too radical; it is revitalizing COPA. I now think we do not need another taskforce, because we have COPA. We can redesign the website, to support people who work to promote the public face of the organization with
- Nick: If you think this is a good idea, you can tell COPA to start acting now as if it is already a fact.
- Michael: The strategic planning work should probably start with the president and president-elect, with a few people they select. Any idea needs to have organization, a structure to support it. COPA is one of the structures, but not the entire answer.
- Ron: COPA in its present form does not support the kind of strategic planning we are talking about. I want to encourage David and Audrey to take leadership. COPA has very few people who have held leadership positions at the organization.
- Michael: I want to return to the professional advisory group, a group with much knowledge of the organization and the field.
- David: Are we really trying to seriously reposition the society?
- Nick: As an example: what would it take to put together a series of workshops for teachers on professional ethics, etc? We can do white papers, some shorter statements on the current issues in education.
- David: I agree, but need some realistic mechanisms of implementing it.
- Michael: Let us focus on the mechanisms.

- Megan: We can have our graduate students working on website.
- Item is tabled till Monday.

D. SPONSORING INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK OF PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION ED. BY LEN WAKS –

The item was withdrawn.

E. PROPOSAL TO FORM A SMALL TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE 'PUBLIC FACE' OF PES -- DAVID HANSEN (ITEM JOINED WITH THE PREVIOUS DISCUSSION)

F. OTHER

Nick informed us about negotiations with Blackwell to add two more issues. If we can identify some theme, papers in the theme can be included in the additional issues. Topics like teaching religion in schools, etc, with wider outreach. We are going to institute a summer institute for which we will solicit proposals for a special issue of Ed. Theory. We are trying to generate some funds that can go back into the field.

MEETING RESUMED ON MONDAY APRIL 14

Present: Katz, Hansen, Hytten, Milligan, Kerdeman, Thompson, Mayo, Burbules, Ruitenberg, Sidorkin.

6. DAVID BEGAN WITH SOLICITING FEEDBACK ABOUT THE CONFERENCE.

- Michael commended changes in the program: Kneller lecture in the morning, party at the presidential suite.
- Sasha raised the question about the Library of Social Sciences continue to provide book display. Consensus is yes, continue with them.

7. APPROVAL OF SITE, BUDGET, PROGRAM CHAIR, AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR 2009 CONFERENCE

- Fee structure was discussed, decided to keep it. Audrey **moved:** – to accept the budget with amendment (Increase Kneller stipend to \$2000, authorize Jeff to increase the number of student rooms as needed).
- Debby briefed on program for 2009. Many members were willing to serve on the program committee. At Ron's recommendation, we will try to increase the number of people on the program committee. Kneller lecturer is Paul Taylor, who is very excited to come, and may stay for the whole conference.
- Claudia asked about translations possibility. Discussion ensued. Decided: there may be something translated such as outlines or papers, but the conference will be conducted in English.

- Sasha: I **move** to authorize future program chairs to use paid UIUC graduate students/staff help for the purposes of program development. Audrey **seconded**. **Approved** unanimously.

8. PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE OF PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATION (GSCOPE) -- DAVID HANSEN

- GSCOPE is asking support in terms of advertisement, and to help manage the funds for GSCOPE. Discussion ensued. Website support is granted, technical advice is also offered, but the Board felt it cannot take on the responsibility for account right now, and needs to be further discussed.

9. MEMBERSHIP REPORT –DAVID HANSEN

COPA is set, COSW needs one more. Paul Smeyers will stay on the membership committee, which needs one more member. Elections committee needs 11 nominees by July 1, 7 of which will be elected.

10. CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION ON THE YEARBOOK.

- Michael discussed representation of junior faculty on the task force. Claudia and perhaps one more junior member should stay on. Kal volunteered, and perhaps should be included, and Paul may stay on.
- Claudia suggests discussing this with each individual member whether they want to stay or drop from the committee.
- Nick: one issue can be settled now: keep the floating window or get rid of it?
- Claudia says we need to make sure papers are copy edited, final version.
- Nick confirms, this is the case, final versions would be published.
- Mayo **moves** to reduce the window to the shortest period possible within the production timeline, Audrey Thompson **seconds**. Further discussion: Nick explained the timeline; it is less than a year, brought up that Google Scholar does not currently index the Yearbook. There has been more discussion with Blackwell about the e-book. **Approved unanimously.**
- Michael **moves** on the reconfigured composition of the Yearbook taskforce: Alston, Smeyers, Claudia, Emily and Randy stay on, add Nakia Pope. **Approved unanimously.**
- David: The proposal to constitute a working group on the public face of the PES. This group would discuss the steps in promoting the society and the field.
- Chris suggested a group actually trying to put together press releases, and getting involved in public affairs.
- Claudia asks why create another group if there is already COPA with essentially the same charge. COPA discussed the same issues, and we do not want to double up COPA.

- Michael: there was a little break-down in communication between COPA and the public face initiative.
- Debby Kerdeman: there is a desire on the part of the former presidents to be involved in the process of revising the public role of the Society.
- David: the task force has a larger charge to define the vision for the public presence of PES.
- Nick: the present COPA membership was not elected for the larger purposes. The COPA meeting should be a different event, more prominent. The taskforce is about the agenda setting, not decision meeting.
- David: let's drop the taskforce, but have a focus group of many interested people, including COPA.
- Michael suggested having a budget for the purposes of the task force.
- David: **Motion** is to ask the president to form the focus group, Thompson seconded, approved unanimously.
- Audrey: **Motion** to budget \$1000 for the purposes of the focus group. Cris **seconded**. Approved unanimously.
- Cris Mayo proposed forming a group to work on constituting a committee on the status of race and ethnicity. Motion: that the president appoint Cris to chair a process of constituting a committee on the status of race and ethnicity. Approved unanimously.

11. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9 AM.
