

DRAFT MINUTES

Society for Socialist Studies Annual General Meeting 2019

6 June 2019, 15:30, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia

Present: Radhika Desai, Chris Hurl, Sandra Rein, Bill Carroll, Mara Fridell

Regrets: Debbie Dergousoff

1) Call to order and President's welcome

2) Approval of Agenda

- Three items were added: Student Representation, Support for Black Canadian Studies, Cuba and Venezuela

3) Minutes from previous year's AGM

- Minutes unanimously adopted

4) President's Report

a) MMS System

- The SSS has adopted the MMS system, which will enable us to expand our membership and stabilize our revenues

- We need money for our journal, book prize and other SSS undertakings

- We have moved from PayPal to IACS, the latter designed for non-profits, which reduces what we pay in service fees

- We need further support from the Federation, especially executive meeting software and conference organization software. They could also expand their support for smaller organizations.

- We need to increase diversity, and increase international membership in the SSS

b) SSS Archives

- We've been building the SSS archives, thanks to the help of Jesse Vorst and Ken Collier

- We have a list of all the SSS publications whose copies we have. We are still looking for some publications. (A list of items acquired was displayed.)

- They will be stored at the York Archives, but they are going pretty slowly

- We are being advised to also keep paper records. We should print out at least one copy and send it to the archives.

c) Book Prize

- We took a sabbatical from the book prize this year. We want to go back to it next year.

d) Departing members of the executive

- Chris Hurl, Mara Fridell, Paul Kellogg will be leaving. Thanks for their work.

- Also, thanks to Sandra who will be continuing on as editor.

- Thanks to Elaine Coburn for organizing the conference. She took on the burden of the organizing for this year.

5) Treasurer's Report

- Mara discussed the expenses and revenue from last year (see Treasurer's Report)
- Total expenses: 14,753
- Total revenue: 14,269
- Expenses of note: Canadian Dimension donation; Conference expenses; Journal expenses
- Proposed budget for next year: \$20,955 (see attached)
 - Items of note: RA appointment to Journal Editor
 - Travel awards are budgeted at \$6,500, but we're going to get way less for that
- Revenues for next year: Budgeted \$11,870
- Trends
- Over the past three years, we've losing a bit more money than we've been spending
- However, we're actually doing pretty well financially.
- SSS bank balance is currently over \$19,000, but we'll have to pay out on conference expenses over the next few years
- In terms of Congress, we're bringing in more than we're paying out, but we also have other expenses beyond Congress
- Membership: 126 members
- Membership has declined since 2015, when it boomed
- It was mentioned that membership ebbed and flowed according to the location of the conference and the membership drive initiative under Bill Carroll.

- M-01 ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET

Moved by Mara/ Seconded by Cheryl

Unanimously approved

- M-02 ADOPTION OF PRESIDENT'S AND TREASURER REPORT

Unanimously adopted

6) Journal Editor's Report

- Very busy year
- Two special issue journals were produced
- We gave received a lot of support from the University of Alberta, who has given us a new system
- We're moving to the rolling publication journal format, which we will add to throughout the year
- Sean Cain will continue to do the layout and the design
- Very little movement from SSHRC in funding the journal
- Sandra has received course release for her role as editor of the journal
- A new \$2,000 RA will support the production of the journal
- Since 2007, 157,000 downloads of articles; average download of 464 times
- Looking for contributions
- Sandra says that we will start archiving paper copies
- **M-03 ADOPTION OF JOURNAL REPORT**
- **Unanimously adopted.**

7) Conference Report

- We had 136 registered members online, not including registrations at the table
- There are number of people participating who (by agreement) were not registered, taking the number up to 150-ish
- There were 22 at the banquet
- We spent \$400 for the Susan Point image
- A number of important panels were organized: including carbon capitalism, indigenous struggles, socialist feminist sessions, and panel on 1919
- Organizationally, it was great that we were in a good building, and just one location throughout the conference
- But the burden of organizing fell on Elaine
- Claire Polster has expressed interest in being on the Committee in the future
- Elaine suggests that future committees are organized as teams
- Sean Cain was very helpful in formatting, and he should be used in the future.

8) Call for volunteers for next year's book prize committee

- Frank Cunningham is prepared to stay on as a member of the book prize committee, but he also wants more diversity on the committee
- Meg Luxton is also prepared to be a member of the committee
- Elaine Coburn also volunteers
- We also need support to generate a good pool of potential selections
- **M-04 SELECTION OF BOOK PRIZE COMMITTEE**
- Meg, Elaine, Frank, Megan (Aiken) and another guy(?) will be part of the book prize committee

9) Conference Committee

- Jamie Magnusson has agreed to be a member of the Conference Committee
- Claire Polster has also agreed to be a member of the Conference Committee
- We need to look for a chair of the Conference Committee, which the incoming executive will pursue.

9) Election of officers for next year's Executive

- a) Nomination for Treasurer
 - Nominations received: Cheryl Hewitt
 - Call for nominations from the floor.
 - **Acclaimed**
- b) Nomination for Secretary
 - Nomination received: Jamie Lawson
 - Call for nominations from the floor
 - **Acclaimed**
- c) Nomination for Member at Large (1)
 - Nomination received: Honor Brabazon
 - Call for nominations from the floor

- **Acclaimed**

d) Ad hoc student representative

- Radhika proposes that we have student representation on the executive committee on an ad hoc basis with the aim of bringing language to amend the constitution for next year.
- Megan Aikan is interested in being involved.
- There was some discussion about the constitutionality of the position.
- Chris argues that notice should be given that these positions have been created and these positions should be formalized in the constitution.
- He suggests that this might be adapted through voice not vote.
- Sandra raises the point that we can change the constitution without notice.
- **M-05 that the executive invite 2 student observers to attend and fully participate (voice no vote) at meetings, with the intention that the Executive present a constitutional amendment at the next AGM on permanent official student representative on the Executive.**
 - o **Jamie Lawson moved; Bill Carroll seconded: Adopted with one abstention**

10) Motion: Constitutional Amendment Duties of the Executive (see below)

- **Unanimously adopted**

12) Discussion of how to increase and diversify membership of SSS

- Frank encourages that we organize more local events and meetings
- Bill argues that we need to do a lot more outreach, more social media presence, and connect with different academic and activist networks, inviting people to be a part of socialist studies.
- Bill also suggests that we leverage *Socialist Studies* readership into membership
- Kim suggests advertising with left wing publications. He also suggests handbills.
- Megan proposes having events which are not at university settings – maybe local pub nights
- Jamie proposes hubs for participation from a distance (i.e. via Skype), when our conferences are in more remote locations
- Cheryl proposes having gatherings and more fun events
- Brander suggests reaching to activist education organizations that are already active
- Chris suggests connecting with left wing publications to present panels and keynotes at our conference
- **M-06 that the AGM not be held at the end of the conference**
- **Moved by Alan; Unanimously adopted**

13) Other business

a) M-07: Support for Black Canadian Studies Association

Be it resolved that the executive of the SSS prepare a solidarity statement supporting the request that the BCSA has forwarded to the federation

Moved by Jamie Magnusson; Unanimously adopted

b) M-08: On closure of Canadian embassies in Cuba and Venezuela

“We are deeply concerned at the consequence, both for academic freedom and for human rights, of the Canadian government decision to close its embassies in Cuba and Venezuela. Given the requirement for citizens of these countries to apply in person for Canadian visas in Mexico, this effectively denies – especially to poor people – the right to travel to Canada, and denies the Canadian people to hear from sources in both these countries.

We request the Canadian government restore consular services, at least to the extent of processing visa applications, in both Cuba and Venezuela.

We resolve to write to:

- (1) The board of the Congress of the Humanities
- (2) Appropriate sister scholarly organisations

asking them to support this request, and communicate their decision to the Canadian authorities”

**Moved by Alan Freeman
Unanimously adopted.**

**14) Adjournment
Unanimously adopted**

