

## **Minutes of the Business Meeting**

### **Charles Sanders Peirce Society**

**Thursday February 19, 2015  
Hilton St. Louis At the Ballpark  
St. Louis, Missouri, USA**

Following the annual scholarly meeting, with papers by President Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou and Essay Contest winner Aaron Wilson, President Sfendoni-Mentzou called the meeting to order.

#### **1. Call for approval of the previous year's minutes**

Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou asked whether there were any objections to approving the minutes of the 2015 business meeting. Hearing none, Bob Lane moved and David Pfeiffer seconded the approval of the minutes. Passed.

#### **2. Report from the Executive Committee Meeting**

Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou reported on the Society's accomplishment in 2014:

- International Centennial Congress held, with over 200 Peirce scholars from around the world.
- Extremely well-attended open forum at International Centennial Congress on the future of Peirce scholarship – standing-room-only audience and a panel of distinguished international scholars.
- Ad Hoc Constitution committee formed and recommendations submitted to Executive Committee.
- Monument Committee formed to consider erection of appropriate memorial monument at Peirce's grave.

Sfendoni-Mentzou then verbally relayed the following minutes of the Executive Committee meeting earlier in the day:

#### **Minutes of the Peirce Society Executive meeting**

February. 19, 2015 St. Louis At the Ballpark Hilton, St. Louis, Missouri, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Present:** Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou (President), Ivo Ibri (Vice-President), Shannon Dea (Secretary-Treasurer), Richard Atkins (At-Large Executive member), Nathan Houser (Peirce Foundation President), André De Tienne (PEP Director).

**Regrets:** Ahti Pietarinen, Daniel Campos, Jérôme Vogel.

**Recorder:** Shannon Dea

### **1. Constitution Committee recommendations**

Atkins summarized the Ad Hoc Constitution Committee's recommendations for constitutional amendment, and some of the rationales for those recommendations. The two main goals of the amendments are continuity of leadership, and increased internationalization. Members discussed pros and cons of proposed amendments, and some alternative approaches.

**ACTION:** The Executive Committee will continue to consider the recommendations, and will aim to bring its response to the membership, if appropriate with a vote to be taken, by the 2016 AGM. If the executive is still working on the report at that time, it will bring an interim report to the general membership at the 2016 AGM.

### **2. Future AGMs: where to hold them, and how to increase attendance.**

Members discussed pros and cons of various meeting locations and schedules, including various APA divisional meetings, SAAP, and international venues. Sfondoni-Mentzou suggested that having a second Peirce session at the meeting at which the AGM occurs could attract more Peirce scholars to the AGM. Dea suggested inviting essay prize shortlisted authors to present on such a panel.

**ACTION:** Next year's AGM to be held at the APA Eastern. We will hold two sessions – the usual AGM, plus a second session, where the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place essay prize authors will present alongside a more senior Peirce scholar. We will therefore need to change the cfp for the essay prize, both to alert authors to the additional chances to present at the APA, and to make the deadline earlier, in accordance with the APA Eastern meeting dates.

**ACTION:** The new executive will form an ad hoc subcommittee to investigate the feasibility of future international conference partnerships, and similar opportunities.

### **3. Policies/procedures for financial subventions, including travel subventions and a/v charges.**

The Society has been making decisions about financial subventions and incidental costs on a case-by-case basis. More systematicity is required. As well, it may be desirable to provide additional funds for conference travel for junior colleagues who are both meritorious and in financial need. It may also be desirable in the long-term to begin providing financial resources besides travel subventions for Peirce scholars who do not have access to adequate resources (for instance, access to the manuscripts or to the *Transactions*).

**ACTION:** Atkins will share with the new executive some of the research the Ad Hoc Constitution Committee did on possible financial policies and procedures. As well, the executive will consult the Royce Society constitution, which has an excellent financial section that could serve as a

useful model. The new executive will in the coming months continue to work to develop systematic policies and procedures re: expenditures.

#### **4. Digitizing the Peirce papers**

The executive moved into an in camera discussion to consider issues surrounding the possibility of digitizing the Peirce papers.

#### **5. Other business**

Sfendoni-Mentzou remarked on the desirability of more frequent meetings of the Society, as well as partnerships with other congresses. Other members agreed, and added that the Peirce Society could serve as an effective hub for the various Peirce organizations now in existence internationally.

**ACTION:** The ad hoc committee mentioned in item 2, above, will be instructed to consider means by which the Society can serve as a useful hub for Peirce groups and organizations around the world. Some such means might include offering these groups affiliate memberships, using the Society website as a portal to other Peirce organizations' websites, posting the Society's logo on those other websites as a kind of "stamp of approval," etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou closed her remarks by requesting that members consider donating funds toward the erection of a Peirce memorial monument.

### **3. Report from the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society***

Cornelis de Waal presented the following report from the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*:

The *Transactions* had good year. We published four issues as per norm and have a reasonably filled backlog. Highpoint, perhaps, was the publication of a symposium on Philip Kitcher's book on pragmatism. Unfortunately, Sami Philström resigned as book review editor following his appointment as Professor of Philosophy of Religion, at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Helsinki. Our new book review editor is Henrik Rydenfelt, who previously had been the assistant book review editor. Also at IU Press there were several shifts in personnel. Gary Dunham replaced Janet Rabinowitch as Director, and Michael Regoli became the new director for the journals division, replacing Kate Caras. IU Press also moved to Indiana University's Office of Scholarly Publishing.

On June 30, 2014, which marks the end of IU Press's 2014 fiscal year, the *Transactions* had 3,186 subscribers, a 2.6% increase from the year before (3,087). Of these 205 received a paper copy (down from 228). The number of individual subscribers was 167 (down from 172). The

growth in subscriptions is due to an increase in Project Muse subscriptions, up from 2677 to 2767.

The *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$45,516 (up from \$41,803, but roughly equal to the \$46,751 of the year before), of which 15%, equaling \$6,827.45, went to the Peirce Society (up from \$6270 and again roughly equal to the \$7,013 of the year before).

Cornelis de Waal, Editor-in-Chief

#### 4. Financial Report

Shannon Dea delivered the following report:

This report is for the period beginning Feb 1, 2014 and ending Jan.31, 2014.

The Society's income during this period was \$8618.14:

\$1775.09 in membership dues;  
\$6827.45 in *Transactions* royalties; and  
\$15.60 in interest.

The Society's expenditures during this period were \$14,539.31:

\$32.52 for dinner for the 2014-15 essay contest prize winner;  
\$13,650 to Charles S. Peirce Foundation to support International Centennial Congress;  
\$740.00 in assorted travel and accommodations costs (240.00 for travel stipends for speakers at Society panel at SAAP, 500.00 for ICC organizing committee travel)  
\$18.00 in bank fees  
\$98.79 for executive committee lunch meeting at ICC

As of Feb. 18, 2014, the Society's assets were \$25,843.85, an increase of \$4354.61 from January 31, 2014.\*

The breakdown of the assets is:

\$18,080.03 in checking,  
\$7694.84 in a money-market account,  
\$68.98 in savings.

*\*Note: The following transactions occurred during February, 2015, too late to be included in 2014-15 fiscal year actuals, but in time to affect the Society's current assets. They will be included in the financial report for 2015-16:*

Credit:

- Transfer to Society from Charles Peirce Foundation: \$11,085.87

Debits:

- Wire transfer fee: (\$10.00)
- Check for Peirce Prize and travel subvention for 2014-15 Peirce prize winner (\$800)

**Net income: \$10,275.87**

Shannon Dea  
Secretary-treasurer

## **5. Report from the Peirce Edition Project**

André de Tienne delivered the following report from the Peirce Edition Project:

I have the pleasure to present the following report about the Peirce Project's main activities and accomplishments that took place between March 2014 and February 2015. During that period, the Project was happy to co-celebrate both the centennial of Peirce's ultimate cessation of activities and the century of that portion of Peirce scholarship devoted to the organizing, editing, and publishing of the written legacy of our favorite philosophical genius.

I presented last year a report that was both gloomy and hopeful. Part of the gloom came from the general inability for American philosophical editions to attract NEH funding (Dewey, Royce, Peirce). We had lost our principal transcriber to retirement, and it took a long time before we were able to hire a new editorial associate, Matthew O'Haver, who had been well trained for this type of work under the tutelage of our senior textual editor Jon Eller.

Where are we, staff-wise, one year later? Still in the same position, although there are signs that things will improve: apart from myself, the PEP team consists of our assistant textual editor April Witt, who is about to finish writing her Ph.D. dissertation and so will imminently be able to work a great deal more on the edition; Matthew O'Haver, just mentioned, who remains in a precarious position since his salary depends on left-over grant money that is about to be zeroed out. IAT Director Marianne Wokeck and I are busy working out an agreement with the outgoing Dean of the School to stabilize O'Haver's position. Two graduate students, Eric Herod and Frank Schwarzkopf, work 20 hours/week year round and are sustained by gift and endowment money. A few months ago I reached out to our Advisory Board chair Vincent Colapietro, who visited the Project. He had extensive conversations with IAT Director Wokeck, the PEP staff, myself, and Dean Blomquist, to first understand the whole situation and then present a number of constructive ideas that the Dean was most willing to take into consideration. This includes hiring a postdoc to resume manuscript organization; hiring a consultant to conduct an organizational/managerial study of PEP operations so that the Project can be transformed and enlarged to international scholars and satellite operations; and lightening the load weighing on my shoulders by getting someone to do the managerial, fundraising and grant-writing work so that I have more time to focus on the edition per se. All of those initiatives are on the

negotiation table, and Marianne Wokeck and I are strategizing to get the administration to endorse our requests.

In any case, one practical consequence is that we have not finished W9 yet, but finishing it is what we are doing now, in between other initiatives, and done it will be this year. As most of you know, the Peirce Project's major technological initiative has been, for about three years now, the conception and development of two online platforms, STEP (Scholarly Text-Editing Platform) and CORPUS (Collaborative Online Research Platform for Users of Scholarly editions). From the start, the significance of that initiative holds to the fact that both platforms have been conceived to serve not only the long-term production and dissemination needs of the Peirce Project, but also the similar needs of other editions, by no means confined to the IAT editions. The strategic reason is that no funding agency would be likely to support software or platform development if the latter was to remain a local solution. Three years ago we received an NEH Digital Humanities start-up grant that allowed us to launch the development of STEP. Two years ago we received an internal campus grant that allowed us to begin prototyping CORPUS. Both grants were successfully extended to account for personnel turnover, and both ended in early 2014. I wrote an extensive final report for the NEH grant, much of which was transformed into a white paper that can be downloaded from the PEP website (<http://peirce.iupui.edu/STEP/STEP-WhitePaperUserGuides.pdf>). This a large file, because it also includes two user guides: one to the STEP platform as currently exists, and one to a suite of applications that complement and supplement the STEP Platform. That suite of tools, called STEP Tools, consists of hyperspecialized TEI/XML compliant tools expressly engineered to take care of the tedium of encoding Peirce's text and our own critical apparatus according to TEI standards. Nothing comparable to STEP exists in any other scholarly edition: all of our peer editions rely on complex software like oXygen, XMLSpy, Stylus Studio, or other XML editors. STEP and STEP Tools are developed by scholarly editors for scholarly editors; they are meant to be flexible, customizable, and practical tools that do make the life of transcribers easier instead of more complex or forbidding. I am happy, and relieved, to announce that, on the heels of our successful start-up grant, I submitted just yesterday (February 18) an application to the NEH Digital Humanities Implementation grant in order to request funding for enough developers, programmers, and HCI specialists to finish STEP and STEP Tools within two years in such a fashion that the world of scholarly editing will have at its disposal a free and efficient platform endowed with a complete set of workflows that move from initial to perfected transcriptions, from initial to perfected critical editing, from initial to perfected apparatus lists, and ultimately from initial to perfected layout, whether that layout be destined to an online digital edition or to a print edition. Before sending that proposal to NEH, I submitted the entire concept to several sister editions. They all supplied enthusiastic letters of endorsement and support.

**Professor Alois Pichler**, the Head of the *Wittgenstein Archives* at the University of Bergen in Norway, said: "I want to express my strongest possible support for this project because I am convinced that STEP is of decisive value to the field of current and future digital editorial philology... One recurrent problem is ... that it takes both editors and transcribers quite some

time to acquire sufficient mastery of digital editorial tools such as Oxygen to make the investment in them pay off. STEP is a much needed remedy to that situation.... I enthusiastically embrace Professor De Tienne's idea of having other projects benefit from STEP development. I myself and the Wittgenstein Archives look much forward to utilizing it for our own work on Wittgenstein and am entirely open for adding a suitable set from our Wittgenstein materials to the project testbed."

**Professor George Lucas**, general editor of the *Complete Works of Alfred North Whitehead*, wrote: "I wish to provide enthusiastic endorsement of the Scholarly Text-Editing Program (STEP) that the staff of the Peirce Edition Project is undertaking. This will be an invaluable tool for handling the flow of digital text and transcriptions for online publication.... I willingly commit myself and our other individual editors to participating with the PEP staff in beta-testing their new program, and insofar as possible, to using it ourselves in our ongoing efforts to produce an authoritative, open, online version of our edition for use by scholars and interested members of the general public without charge."

**Erica Zimmer**, from the Editorial Institute at Boston University, testified: "Simply put, the STEP platform revolutionizes both the scope and nature of what scholarly editors new to TEI encoding may accomplish. These twin benefits arise from the ready interface STEP presents between TEI encoding and editorial judgment. ... For those committed to editing, it is immediately functional now beyond other platforms with which I have worked.... Broadly, the interoperability this product supports, both in and among projects, appears tremendously exciting for one considering how best to maximize the mutually informing advantages of print and digital insights. Perhaps the greatest compliment I can give the project is the answer [it provides] to scholarly needs I have long felt. Dr. De Tienne and his team have taken extraordinary care to consider how their suite of tools might meet the clear yet flexible needs of users in an evolving media environment."

If I have quoted this small sample of three letter-writers (out of twelve), it is to demonstrate that the technology the Project has been developing answers the real needs of an entire profession, even of those scholarly editions that already have an enormous experience with TEI encoding. I am therefore hopeful that NEH reviewers will have compelling reasons to recommend that this proposal be funded, even though the odds of getting funded this year are only about 4%. But even if we did not get funded, what has emerged is that the Peirce Project can count on the cooperation and good will of many other editorial operations, and that is an enviable position to be in.

The development of CORPUS is not part of the NEH grant just submitted although it is described in its narrative. STEP is our foremost priority. Since it is naturally geared toward CORPUS, finishing STEP will open the door to CORPUS, and CORPUS funding. The letter-writers who are supporting STEP know about CORPUS, and are equally enthusiastic in its regard, for it all makes sense to them.

The third leg of the tripod, besides STEP and CORPUS, is the DPA, or Digital Peirce Archive, which is to be a particular implementation of a generic solution called COIMBRE (Collaborative Online Image-Based Research Environment). This is another crucial initiative, which aims ultimately at the intelligent digitization of all of Peirce manuscripts, beginning with those at Harvard (while also enabling other editions to accomplish similar goals thanks to COIMBRE). That initiative is international, and it involves a number of parties from Germany, Denmark, Finland, and the US, including the Houghton Library and the Peirce Edition Project. Plans are being drawn up once more, following the refusal by NEH to fund the digitization in collaboration with the DFG. It is too early to tell how those plans are going to be concretized, given certain disagreements on methodologies and strategies that need to be ironed out. But the urge to get it done is paramount, and I am confident that in due time the DPA will emerge, not as a bland and blind raw repository of disorganized images, but as a well cataloged and cleverly conceived solution that will open up the manuscripts to constructive and fruitful research worldwide.

Our relationship with the Institute for American Thought, of which the Project is a principal unit, remains excellent. The support provided us by IAT Director Marianne Wockeck is considerable. She is a solid administrator, much respected by the entire University hierarchy, and considerably experienced in the inner workings of the institution. That is an important asset for the Project, and I am glad to be able to avail myself of her advice.

I cannot end this report without stating how grateful the Peirce Project continues to be for the sustained generosity manifested by many members of the Peirce Society and of the broader Peirce constituency. We appreciate the loyal support and steady marks of encouragement we receive from many parts of the world, as well as the messages that indicate people's willingness to help the Project. It is this network founded on good will and our common conviction that the world is in need of Peirce's thought that guarantees that the work we are all working together to accomplish, through good or bad times, will in the end pay off, amply so.

André De Tienne

Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

## **6. Report from the Nominating Committee**

Nathan Houser delivered the following report from the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Nathan Houser, with Claudine Tiercelin and Jaime Nubiola as members, propose the following candidates:

- André De Tienne for Vice President (2015-16, succeeding to the presidency in 2016-17);
- Shannon Dea for re-election as Secretary-Treasurer (2015-18);
- Jean-Marie Chevalier for at-large member (2015-18);



- Richard Atkins for at-large member, to fill a one year vacancy arising from Daniel Campos's resignation (2015-16).

Continuing positions are as follows:

- Ivo Ibri, President (2015-16);
- Executive Committee: Ahti Veikko Pietarinen (through 2017); Jérôme Vogel (through 2017); Cornelius de Waal (ex officio).

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Houser

Claudine Tiercelin

Jaime Nubiola

Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she called for a vote. The slate from the nominating committee was unanimously approved.

Upon his election as President, Ivo Ibri gave a short address thanking members and colleagues for their support and confidence.

## **7. New Business**

None.

## **8. Ivo Ibri adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.**