

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Charles Sanders Peirce Society

1:30-4:30 p.m., Friday, January 8, 2016

Washington Marriott Wardman Park

Washington D.C., U.S.A.

Following the annual scholarly meeting, with papers by President Ivo Ibri (read in Professor Ibri's absence by Robert Innis) and Essay Contest winner Francesco Bellucci, Vice-President De Tienne called the meeting to order.

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

Professor De Tienne asked whether there were any objections to approving the minutes of the 2015 business meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

2. Report from the Executive Committee Meeting

Professor De Tienne summarized the history and progress of the Society's constitution committee.

Professor De Tienne described the proceedings of the morning's executive committee meeting, those proceedings recorded in the minutes below:

Executive committee meeting minutes Jan. 8, 2016, 9 a.m. Wardman Park Marriott, Washington D.C.

Present: Shannon Dea (secretary-treasurer), André de Tienne (vice-president), Richard Atkins (at-large executive member)

Regrets: Ahti Pietarinen (at-large executive member), Jérôme Vogel (webmaster), Ivo Ibri (president), Cornelis de Waal (Transactions editor-in-chief)

Absent: Jean-Marie Chevalier (at-large executive member)

1. Constitutional amendments

The main task of the executive committee at this year's meeting was to work through the proposed amendments to the Society constitution drafted by the ad hoc constitution committee, chaired by Richard Atkins.

The highlights of the amendments include

- extending the president's term to three years,
- separating the secretary-treasurer position into separate secretary and treasurer positions,

- further expanding the size of the executive committee by adding two new at-large members,
- expanding and better advertising the nomination process in order to make executive membership more accessible for a wider range of Society members,
- converting to electronic elections so that more members can participate in that process.

Having now worked through the ad hoc committee's suggestions --- accepting some, adapting or rejecting others --- the executive committee will refer the revised proposal back to the ad hoc committee for its feedback before bringing all of the changes to the membership for an electronic vote. Members should expect to hear about this by email and via the website and social media in the weeks ahead.

2. Membership dues and related matters

Cornelis de Waal suggested (by email) separating the payment of Society membership dues from the purchase of subscriptions to the *Transactions* in order to boost Society membership. The executive committee found this suggestion worthy of consideration but agreed that we need to do more research before committing to this course of action. It was decided to strike an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility.

3. Book prize and essay prize pilot

Taking its lead from a proposed amendment by the ad hoc constitution committee, the executive agreed to pilot a new essay prize for mid-career and senior scholars, and a new book prize. Members can expect to hear more about both in the months ahead.

4. Next year's annual meeting

In light of the very good attendance at the Jan. 7 Peirce Society session, which was better than the attendance at Society annual meetings in most recent years, the executive committee decided to hold next year's annual meeting at the APA Eastern again. Next year's Eastern APA will be held Jan. 4-7 in Baltimore. The Society will again aim to have two sessions in order to highlight the work of Peirce scholars at various career stages.

The executive committee is cognizant of the fact that meetings in the U.S. make it more difficult for international members to attend and participate. The committee agrees in principle that it is worth trying to meet in other countries from time to time so long as the timing aligns with the Society's fiscal years and electoral terms. The executive committee agreed to refer to the outreach committee the question of how best to organize society meetings outside of North America so that we can pursue this option in the future.

5. Outreach committee

The executive committee got a first look at the new website design for the Society that was developed by the outreach committee. The design (which is not yet visible to members) is clean, stylish and intuitive, and emphasizes the Society's international membership by using as its banner Peirce's quincuncial map projection.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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

Transactions Peirce editor, Robert Lane, presented the following report on behalf of Editor-in-Chief Cornelis de Waal:

The *Transactions* had again good year, though not without challenges. We experienced a temporary dip in book reviews, which has since been resolved, and Scott Pratt resigned because he could no longer reconcile his obligations as *Transactions* editor with his new position as Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Oregon. The process of finding a replacement for Scott has been started.

During 2015 we published four issues as per norm and have a modestly filled backlog, though we are low on Peirce submissions. In the coming months we plan to publish a symposium on Chris Hookway with contributions by Putnam and Kitcher, and a special on Josiah Royce in cooperation with the Royce Society, marking the 100-year anniversary of Royce's death. The latter attracted twelve submissions which are currently under review.

On June 30, 2015, which marks the end of IU Press's 2015 fiscal year, the *Transactions* had 2,746 subscribers, a 13.8% decrease from the year before (3,186). Of these only 122 received a paper copy, which is significantly lower than the 205 of a year earlier. The number of individual subscribers was 90 (down from 167), which is about half the number of individual subscribers we had a year ago.

The *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$ 42,543 (down from \$45,516, but roughly equal to the \$41,803 of the year before), of which 15%, equaling \$ 6,381, went to the Peirce Society (down from \$6,827, but again roughly equal to the \$6,270 of the year before).

Total revenues from individuals or organizations that opted for the print only option (which comes to only 105 customers) is \$9,084. Total cost of the print edition is \$4,426 (not including possible IU Press overhead). Hence, despite the low number of print only subscribers, providing this service is not leading to losses.

Cornelis de Waal, Editor-in-Chief

Professor Lane took questions. During discussion, Professor Lane poked to the merits of decoupling membership fees from *Transactions* subscriptions. Professor De Tienne agreed, and underscored the point.

4. Financial report

Shannon Dea presented the following report:

This report is for the period beginning Feb. 1, 2015 and ending Dec. 31, 2015.

The Society's income during this period was \$17,900.75:

\$419.00 in membership dues;

\$6381.40 in *Transactions* royalties;

\$11,085.87 in unused funds from Centennial Congress transferred back to Society; and

\$14.48 in interest.

The Society's expenditures during this period were \$3646.44:

\$500.00 essay prize;

\$2100.00 assorted travel and accommodations costs for essay prize winner and executive;

\$228.41 flowers for illness/bereavement;

\$19.89 printing;

\$150.00 a/v for meeting;

\$637.14 memberships in scholarly organizations (FISP and DLMPS); and

\$11.00 bank fees

As of Jan. 7, 2016, the Society's assets were \$29,822.29, an increase of \$3978.44 from Feb. 18, 2015.*

The breakdown of the assets is:

\$10,044.99 in checking,

\$19,709.21 in a money-market account,

\$68.09 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 assets as of Feb. 18, 2015, the date of last year's report. They are posted in the transactions for the 2015 fiscal year. This accounts for why the 2015 f.y. transactions net to \$14,254.31, but the increase in assets since last year's report is only \$3978.44:*

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)

5. Report from the Peirce Edition Project

Professor De Tienne presented a report on the Peirce Edition Project, as follows:

The previous report of the Peirce Project to the Peirce Society covered the period from March 2014 to February 2015. The present report covers the period from March 2015 to December 2015.

Our principal challenge continues to be severe understaffing. Our current staff comprises de facto three full-time positions: director De Tienne, associate textual editor April Witt (who just earned a PhD in English and Comparative Literature), and editorial associate Matthew O'Haver, our transcriber/web master). Of those three positions only two are permanent. O'Haver's position is a matter of annual negotiation: the School picked up his salary this year, but may not be able to do so next year. We were able to maintain the positions of two interns, currently Jimmy Aames and Frank Schwarzkopf, who are both very able MA students in philosophy; they work 20 hours/week year round sustained by gift and endowment money. Over the last few years, the Project has lost six employees to reassignment, retirement, or death. The School of Liberal Arts, whose main revenue comes from student tuitions, has been unable to replace them due to steady enrollment decrease with resulting large deficit increase. You will remember that Advisory Board chair Vincent Colapietro visited the Project in September 2014, had extensive conversations notably with Dean William Blomquist to whom he presented constructive ideas that the Dean was willing to take into consideration. This included hiring a postdoc to resume manuscript organization; hiring a consultant to find ways to transform the Project and enlarge it to international scholars and satellite operations; and lightening the load on the director's shoulders. Some time later, however, Dean Blomquist announced that he would be stepping down, and that essentially put all those plans on the backburner. When he did step down in July, he left behind a multi-million-dollar deficit. His successor Dean Tom Davis is now facing the unenviable task of surmounting that huge financial hurdle. His first act was to freeze all hires. The Peirce Project's most crucial need remains the hiring of a second Peirce scholar, a postdoc with a dissertation on Peirce and a mindset adapted to the rigor of scholarly editing. We have not been able so far to secure the funding for that position, and it may take a long while before the School can afford it.

The most direct consequence of the lack of staff is the dramatic slowdown in our productivity. Work on volume 9 of the edition continued with a principal editorial focus on scholarly textual, historical, philosophical, and bibliographical annotations, which had to be and are now nearly completely redone, as well as on the indexing of the Peirce text. As we all know, that volume should have been published several years ago already. But it is only now that we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and we have reached the last stretch: the volume will be finished by the

end of spring 2016. We will then resume work on volume 11 (Peirce's book on the "The Art of Reasoning: A Critick of Arguments").

My principal focus over the last two years, however, has been on setting the ground for an entirely new strategy for the Peirce Edition, given that there is little prospect that Project staff will increase significantly for a long time. The only way forward is to recreate the Project by decentralizing and internationalizing it. I have begun doing so: I was in Europe in November 2015 and met with French and Italian scholars to discuss collaborations and funding strategies stemming from partial integration within European research grant calls. Persuading scholars established in other universities to collaborate on the Edition with the agreement their respective institutions is part of the plan. I won't go into the very complex practical and administrative details behind that plan. What matters at the moment is that the preliminary condition for any of it to work is to convert the entire edition workflow from paper to electronic, so that the workflow can be accessed by contributing scholars from anywhere. This strategy is essential for it is the most efficient way of ensuring adherence to common standards of transcription, editing, production, and scholarly methodology.

In order to retool our entire operation for the long haul, we have been designing and developing two online platforms, STEP (Scholarly Text-Editing Platform) and CORPUS (Collaborative Online Research Platform for Users of Scholarly editions). The Peirce Project's website details their genesis and functionalities: see <http://www.iupui.edu/~peirce/technology.html>, [/technology.html#step](http://www.iupui.edu/~peirce/technology.html#step), [/technology.html#steptools](http://www.iupui.edu/~peirce/technology.html#steptools), and [/technology.html#corpus](http://www.iupui.edu/~peirce/technology.html#corpus). I will not take here the time to explain them. I will only add briefly that other scholars have recently launched a brand-new, somewhat comparable, but independent initiative that goes by the acronym SPIN (Scalable Peirce Interpretation Network). Jeffrey Downard and Terry Moore are the two principals behind that initiative. Their goal is "to develop and implement a model environment for distributed collaboration that can support, in a sustainable manner, an international network of researchers, students, and citizen scientists in collaborative and concurrent efforts to encode and interpret handwritten scientific manuscripts, including those of high complexity." What they envision is "a dynamic research environment that is conducive to the formation of enduring network communities that include a wide variety of specialists and interested laypersons interacting in a dynamic research ecosystem of mutual support." At this stage, SPIN plans to use Peirce's "Logic Notebook" as a testbed for the creation and testing of the viability of such a platform. They applied last July for an NSF grant, which was turned down recently, but they intend to reapply soon.

Speaking of grant applications, we ourselves submitted in February 2015 a \$325,000 application for a two-year NEH Digital Humanities Implementation grant meant to help us finish programming STEP. The proposal was submitted to several sister editions (Wittgenstein, Whitehead, Royce, Newton), all of which wrote enthusiastic letters of support. Unfortunately we did not receive the grant. Reviewers had been for the most part very positive about our proposal but had a few concerns, and they were especially underwhelmed by STEP's current interface.

NEH Program Officer Jennifer Serventi called me in early August to offer her help in crafting a new application. She insisted that we resubmit, for the STEP project remains of great interest to NEH. She even offered to work with us page by page if need be to increase our chances of getting funded. With that in mind, I applied for a \$35,000 IUPUI bridge-funding grant in mid-October in order to hire interface specialists who could improve STEP's interface in order to make it far more attractive to NEH reviewers by the time they examine our resubmission in spring 2016. The bridge grant was approved in late November and we are now about to hire three employees who will do web development, interface design, and back-end programming on STEP.

The SPIN concept lies somewhere between STEP and CORPUS. For that reason, and because PEP is in need of internationalizing itself, just as SPIN does, there is a distinct possibility that at some point, and depending in part on the outcome of grant applications on either side, we begin collaborating on a joint development project. Neither Downard nor I view each other as competitors, for there is nothing to be gained by anyone were that to be the case.

NEH asked me to get buy-in from the Text Encoding Initiative Consortium. TEI represents a method of tagging and encoding scholarly texts according to a set of guidelines that have become the de facto international standards for all scholarly editions. TEI encoding guarantees the production of text files that are platform-independent while enabling sophisticated textual analysis and processing thanks to the metadata embedded in specialized tags, their attributes, and those attributes' values. STEP is all about making that encoding easier on transcribers. I attended the annual conference of the TEI Consortium in Lyon, France, at the end of October 2015. I met with Consortium leaders, including especially leaders of the TEI's Technical Council. I gave a demonstration of STEP's capabilities to the head of the Technical Council, Professor Hugh Cayless, who was positively impressed and agreed to write a letter of support for our upcoming NEH grant resubmission. This support at the highest level of the Consortium will be a key argument in that forthcoming application.

As part of the need for the Peirce Project to revamp its strategies for the long term and improve communication with its global constituency, we spent the first few months of 2015 constructing an ambitious new website to replace the old one that had become obsolete. The new site was launched in June 2015. The site's structure is distributed among eight tabs: Project, Edition, Peirce, Methods, Resources, Research, Publications, and Technology. Peirce's spirit inhabits the entire website. Nearly every page opens or ends with one or more quotations that relate to the content of that page evocatively. In addition, the left side of every page displays tokens of "Peirce's pith": a random pithy statement or aphorism that changes each time one moves to a new tab or refreshes a page. The new site has been very successful; it is being accessed by scholars from more than seventy countries. Messages of appreciation emphasize our constituency's gratitude for the enormous amount of information provided, the ease of navigation, the clarity of explanations, and the transparency of our methods and aims.

In the course of our work, we develop specialized software to accomplish certain repetitive and complex tasks. Sometimes the software becomes so efficient and versatile that it makes sense to make it available to others in need of similar solutions. A stellar example of this has been LiveIndexer, a sophisticated back-of-the-book indexing program loaded with many features adapted to both the Mac and Windows platforms. As part of an effort to diversify our fundraising techniques, we have decided to turn it into a sellable application, all proceeds going to sustain the Peirce edition. Our website provides a full description of the software and explains how it can be acquired by anyone interested in indexing any sort of book or dissertation. See <http://www.iupui.edu/~peirce/technology.html#liveindexer> for more explanation. In order to attract more interest, we have also made available, for free, a much smaller but fun application, called PithMaker (<http://www.iupui.edu/~peirce/technology.html#pithmaker>), which allows users to easily cull aphorisms and pithy statements from any text to turn them into collections that can be used in website displays for all sorts of purposes. Some of the specialized applications we are developing to accompany the STEP platform may also be turned into sellable cross-platform software (for instance, STEP Annotator, or even STEP Transcripator).

Our constituency is now global, the chief reason being simply the ever increasing impact of Peirce's ideas on scholars and intellectuals everywhere. The stream of international visitors to the Peirce Project never abates. At the moment we are hosting two Chinese professors, each conducting a one-year-long research in our premisses, one on Peirce's place in the history of semiotics, and the other on Peirce's theory of reasoning. They represent a small sample of the kind of reach the Peirce Project has achieved over the years. We are not only an edition, but also a dynamic research center with very large and always expanding resources. Just a few months ago we received the papers and library of the late professor Gérard Deledalle, a French historian of philosophy who introduced the European continent to the thought of both John Dewey (in the 1950s and 60s) and especially of Charles Peirce (in the late 1960s to 1990s). His archive is a treasure trove for anyone who wants to study the growth of interest in American thought across Europe, and even Africa, a continent where Deledalle taught or lectured in multiple countries. The IAT is busy organizing and cataloging the thousands of documents from that archive.

Most important for the Peirce Project's well-being, or better-being should I say, is our continued positive symbiosis with the Institute for American Thought of which we are a core unit. The staunch support and astute advice we keep receiving from IAT Director Marianne Wokeck is invaluable. She has been a crucial interface between the Project and the Liberal Arts administration, and I am glad to have her backing in these financially challenging times.

The Peirce Project acknowledges most gratefully the 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 or that inquire about our progress. It is this network founded on

good will that sustains our daily labor and continuing work, for the sake of Peirce's thought.

Gratefully and respectfully submitted,

André De Tienne

Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

6. Report from the Nominating Committee and election of new officers

Shannon Dea presented the following report (authored by Michael Raposa) on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

The nominations committee consisted of Lucia Santaella (from the Sao Paulo Catholic University), Rossella Fabbrichesi (from the University of Milan) and myself. We were asked to identify one nominee for the Society's executive committee and a second nominee for Vice-President (who would also become president-in-waiting).

For the first position, we have nominated Gesche Linde, presently at the University of Darmstadt in Germany, but recently offered a full professorship at the University of Rostock. Prof. Linde has published an important monograph (in 2013) and numerous articles dealing with Peirce and pragmatism, focusing especially on the interpretation and application of Peirce's semiotic theory. She is the former recipient of a prestigious German fellowship (DAAD) that allowed to her to do research for a year with the Peirce Edition Project in Indianapolis.

For the position of Vice President, we have nominated Robert Neville of Boston University. Prof. Neville is the author of 25 books and more than 300 articles and reviews, some of them devoted to exploring, others drawing heavily upon, pragmatism and the American philosophical tradition (especially as developed in the thought of Peirce and Whitehead). He is a past president of the American Academy of Religion, of the International Society of Chinese Philosophy and of the Metaphysical Society of America. Neville received both his undergraduate and his graduate degrees from Yale University, where he was a student of two former presidents of the Peirce Society, John E. Smith and the Society's very first president, Paul Weiss.

Here is a summary of that report, supplemented with term commencement and conclusion dates, and information about continuing positions:

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Lucia Santaella Braga, with Rossella Fabbrichesi and Michael Raposa as members, propose the following candidates:

- Robert Neville for Vice President (2016-2017, succeeding to the presidency in 2017-2018);

- Gesche Linde for Executive Committee (2016-19).

Continuing positions are as follows:

- André De Tienne, President (2016-17);
- Executive Committee: Shannon Dea, secretary-treasurer (through 2018), Jean-Marie Chevalier (through 2018); Ahti Veikko Pietarinen (through 2017); Jérôme Vogel, webmaster (through 2017); Cornelius de Waal (ex officio).

Professor De Tienne called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he called for a vote. The slate from the nominating committee was unanimously approved.

7. Monument committee

Monument committee chair Rosa Mayorga gave a brief oral report on the progress of the committee.

8. Outreach committee

Shannon Dea referred those present to these minutes for a report from the outreach committee, submitted on behalf of committee chair Jérôme Vogel. The report is as follows:

The Outreach Committee (OC) was formed to investigate the feasibility of future international conference partnerships, and similar opportunities. Among the ideas discussed during the open forum held at the Lowell ICC was that the Society could serve as an effective “hub” for the various Peirce organizations now in existence internationally. The OC has been instructed to consider means by which such a hub could operate. These include: (1) offering Peirce groups and organizations around the world affiliate memberships; (2) using the Society website as a portal to other Peirce organizations’ websites; (3) posting the Society’s logo on those other websites as a kind of “stamp of approval.”

Concerning (2) and (3), the OC has been working on a new design, featuring a new logo. It is a work in progress--more content is coming soon. The layout and structure will be updated to reflect decisions about (1). The main idea is to design the website as a sort of aggregator that would provide some common ground for the different affiliations. The goal is to invigorate the Society, elevate its presence and hence its importance and relevance worldwide.

Concerning (1), it has been remarked that there is some genuine interest and enthusiasm in Peirce studies outside the US. The following suggestions are being discussed:

(1.1) Choosing/electing Society representatives at the different Peirce organizations or groups that would report back to the Society on local activities;

(1.2) Having local Peirce essay contests at these organizations/groups that could then feed into the annual contest --perhaps the first prize in each of these could present at the annual Society meeting, or these could then compete for one big first, second, third prize;

(1.3) Partnering with local businesses, industries, and finding other ways to obtain funding to support student travel to Peirce conferences worldwide;

(1.4) Establishing a travel fund for international students --something for which graduate students could apply in order to attend either the Society's annual meeting or SAAP;

(1.5) Adding to the tasks of the OC the consolidation of Peirce-related events worldwide, including Society-backed Peirce conference series that could alternate between different continents.

9. New business

None.

10. Adjournment

President De Tienne adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.