

Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting
Charles S. Peirce Society
January 5, 2017 at 2:15 p.m.
Renaissance Harborplace Hotel
Baltimore, MD

The meeting began at 2:20 p.m.

Present were André De Tienne, Robert C. Neville, and Richard Kenneth Atkins
Sending their regrets were Ahti-Vieikko Pietarinen, Gesche Linde, and Cornelis de Waal

1. The first topic for consideration was the status of the new website design. Over the last two years, Jérôme Vogel has worked tirelessly to design a new website for the Peirce Society. The members of the Executive Committee have nothing but high praise for its intuitive interface and attractive design.

(a) The Executive Committee will work with Jérôme to ensure that all information of the website is up-to-date before it is made live.

(b) Mats Bergman, on behalf of Commens, has kindly offered to have an RSS feed on the website with news pertaining to publications and conferences. Provided that adding it the website is feasible, the Executive Committee supports doing so.

(c) Also, the Executive Committee will consult with the Outreach Committee on the question of whether and how we might add a community-driven database on which users might share other online resources.

2. The second topic under discussion was the development and improvement of international partnerships. Following recommendations made by the Outreach Committee:

(a) The Executive Committee shall endeavor to organize sessions on Peirce's philosophy in relationship to other philosophical traditions, such as Chinese philosophy and Continental philosophy, and other areas of study, such as theology.

(b) Prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee will reach out to other Peirce-related Societies and ask them for reports on their activities that we can share with members of the Peirce Society.

(c) The Peirce Society shall ask the International Advisory Board to reach out to local scholars to submit essays to the annual Peirce Essay Contest, about which more shall be said later.

3. The third item was updates on various digitization projects.

The Executive Committee is pleased and encouraged to learn of the various projects undertaken to preserve, promote, and share Peirce's works. We received updates on the SPIN project, being spearheaded by Jeffrey Downard and Terry Moore, to design and implement a community-driven, computer-based, scalable interface to transcribe Peirce's works. André De Tienne reported on his conversations with the Digital Peirce Archive and their efforts to digitize Peirce's

papers. Following long-standing practice, the Peirce Society encourages all such projects but does not favor any over others.

4. The fourth item for discussion was membership.

The Executive Committee is concerned about declining membership in the Peirce Society even as our social media presence increases. We believe we need to improve outreach to new and previous members of the Society.

(a) In an effort to centralize outreach, the Secretary-Treasurer has reserved a new email address--peircesociety@gmail.com--and will begin migrating addresses from the previous email list and combining it with the current and most recent membership lists.

(b) In the upcoming year, the Executive Committee will take up the question of how best to separate membership dues from subscription dues. We will seek clarification pertaining to membership options as listed on JSTOR as well as how the dues payments to the Society are calculated.

(c) Once the Executive Committee has improved and centralized its database of Peirce scholars, we will explore the possibility of a membership drive.

5. The fifth item under consideration was designing and implementing systematic policies and procedures for subventions.

(a) The Executive Committee shall design a form to request monies for travel.

(b) The Executive Committee will decide at the start each year how much money to allocate for travel and shall not disburse monies in excess of that amount. The availability of funds will be announced once membership information has been migrated and updated.

(c) The Executive Committee favors using such funds to support young scholars traveling significant distances to present work related to Peirce and disfavors using the funds to support travel by members of the Executive Committee.

6. The sixth topic we discussed was the Peirce Essay contest, and especially how to open it up to scholars for whom English is not their native language.

(a) The Executive Committee shall ask the International Advisory Board to reach out to local scholars to submit to the Peirce essay contest. We will not require the submissions to be written in English. However, any paper not written in English must be accompanied with a 500-word summary, written in English, of the main argument of the paper. Also, the Executive Committee will consult with scholars who know the language in which the essay was written for an evaluation of its merits. Should an essay that is not written in English win the essay contest, the author shall be responsible for translating the essay so that it can be printed in the *Transactions*.

7. Seventh, the understanding of the Executive Committee is that a search for new *Transactions* co-editor is underway and looks forward to announcing the new editor once the search is complete.

8. The eighth topic of discussion was the proposed book prize and essay contest pilot for mid-career and senior scholars, which the Executive Committee had intended to pilot for this past year.

(a) Given worries about the bureaucracy and workload that such an awards-process would involve, the Executive Committee has decided not to pursue such prizes.

(b) The Executive Committee, though, shall urge scholars to organize “author meets critics” session or to organize symposia on major works or themes related to Peirce.

9. The ninth item considered was the ongoing efforts to amend the Constitution of the Peirce Society. The Executive Committee had hoped we might be prepared to vote on said amendments in the last year. We were not, however, able to do so, partly because of the large number of amendments proposed and the limited discussion that has taken place on each of them.

(a) Accordingly, the Executive Committee has agreed to take up each of the five general, separate proposals one-by-one rather than to bring all of the amendments up for a vote at once. Following a more detailed discussion on each topic and once the membership roles are in order, we shall separately bring up the general proposals for vote.

10. Finally, the Executive Committee agreed on a location of next Executive Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting.

(a) The Executive Committee will meet at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, which will be held in Boston, November 18–21, 2017.

(b) The Annual General Meeting will be held at the American Philosophical Association Meeting in Savannah, January 3–6, 2018, where the Essay Contest Winner will present her or his essay.