

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society was held at the Sheraton New York Times Square in New York City on January 8, 2019. Rossella Fabbrichesi chaired the meeting and called it to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 Meeting

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Report from the Executive Committee

Richard Kenneth Atkins submitted the following report:

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 7:00 a.m. Central Standard Time. Participating were Richard Kenneth Atkins, Gesche Linde, and Michael Raposa in Denver, CO, and Rossella Fabbrichesi, Ahti Veikko-Pietarinen, and Aaron Wilson by teleconference.

1. Review of Minutes from 2018 Annual General Meeting

The committee began by reviewing the minutes from the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

2. Constitutional Amendments

In 2014, the Executive Committee struck an ad hoc committee to consider ways in which the constitution might be amended so as to improve continuity of leadership and international participation. Last year, several amendments were made. This year, we considered the following four proposals:

- a. To Make Outgoing President an Ex Officio Member: The Executive Committee agreed to proceed with this amendment to improve continuity of leadership.
- b. Divide Secretary-Treasurer: As the responsibilities of the Treasurer are minimal, the Executive Committee decided to table this amendment until we gain greater clarity regarding the Society's aims to establish its status as a non-profit organization.
- c. Make Secretary-Treasurer the Executive Director: The Executive Committee agreed to move forward with this amendment to more accurately reflect the responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer.
- d. Allow for/ Mandate Electronic Voting: The Executive Committee agreed to move forward with this amendment to improve participation in the Society.

3. Membership Options

Presently, one becomes a member of the Society by subscribing to the journal. However, as many persons access the journal through their libraries, they do not become members of the Society. We considered whether we might expand the options for membership and decided to

consult our current legal and fiduciary responsibilities with respect to Indiana University Press before proceeding with further discussion.

The Executive Committee also agreed to waive the membership dues of Michael Shapiro at his request.

4. Funding for Scholarship

Per guidelines established previously, the Executive Committee agreed to set aside two-thirds of the Society's 2019 income to support Peirce scholarship in 2020, including the Peirce Essay Prize. This amounts to \$4,798.40.

5. Nominating Committee

The President of the Society, in consultation with the Executive Committee, decided on Robert Cummings Neville, Claudio Paolucci, and Arnold Oostra to serve on the nominating committee.

6. Seeking Non-Profit Status for the Peirce Society

The Charles S. Peirce Society is not an incorporated non-profit. Last year, the Executive Committee agreed to seek non-profit status. This year, it agreed to strike an ad hoc committee empowered to draft the articles of incorporation in the state of Indiana, draft the 1023 EZ form to submit to the IRS, and to draft bylaws for the Society. The Executive Committee also approved funds to cover the cost of filing fees. The first order of business for 2019 will be to get this effort underway.

7. Role of the Society Relative to Other Peirce-Related Endeavors, such as the Peirce Edition Project and SPIN

The Peirce Society has been and remains neutral with respect to other Peirce-related endeavors. Recently, members of the Executive Committee have grown concerned about the status of the Peirce Edition Project as it has been several years since a volume appeared and some of the persons still listed as on the board are deceased. It was decided to draft a letter to encourage the work of the Peirce Edition Project.

8. Other Business

The Executive Committee agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting in 2020 in conjunction with the Eastern APA.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kenneth Atkins

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

Cornelis de Waal submitted the following report on behalf of the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*.

In 2018 we published again a nice selection of papers including a symposium on the economy of research and a book symposium on Cheryl Misak's *Cambridge Pragmatism*. We continue to struggle, however, attracting high quality submissions. We have a modestly filled backlog.

On June 30, 2018, which marks the end of IU Press's 2018 fiscal year, the *Transactions* counted 3,110 subscribers, a slight increase compared to last year's 2,946 subscribers and the 2,905 subscribers of the year before.

Breaking down the circulation numbers leaves the following picture: the number of Project Muse subscribers went up slightly, from 2,707 to 2,749. The number of institutional subscribers increased significantly, from 119 to 193. And over the last two years, the group of individual subscribers (or members) has also shown a significant growth. At the end of the 2018 fiscal year we had 168 subscribers (up from 120 last year and 89 two years earlier). This brings us back to the membership level of 2014, the year of the Charles S. Peirce Centennial Congress. Finally, we sold 9 individual (print) issues. The suspiciously large number of single issues we sold last year, an amazing 1074 issues, was discovered to be due to an accounting error (double counting non-Muse subscriptions as individual sales also). The number of subscriptions to JSTOR's new issue alerts for the *Transactions* went up from 63 to 104.

Overall the *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$41,982, compared to \$48,164 and \$42,344 in the two preceding years respectively. Of that 15% went to the Peirce Society, which comes down to \$6,297. We were charged \$85 due to page overruns, reducing the proceeds to the Society to \$6,212.

In sum, we can say that the circulation remains stable, with a healthy increase in individual subscribers.

Cornelis de Waal,
Editor-in-Chief

4. Financial Statement

Richard Kenneth Atkins delivered the following report:

This report is for the period beginning Jan. 1, 2018 and ending Jan. 4, 2019.

The Society's income during this period was \$7,197.60:

- \$870.00 in membership dues;
- \$6,212.23 in *Transactions* royalties;
- \$115.37 in interest.

An additional \$16,250.00 was given by the Peirce Foundation to reimburse the Society for the cost of the Peirce Memorial Monument.

The Society's expenditures during this period were \$4,080.22

- \$2,293.00 for travel and accommodations costs for speakers;
- \$10.00 for handling fees for transfers;
- \$477.91 for membership and international transfer fees to DLMPST and FISP
- \$1,000.00 for the Peirce essay prize;
- \$299.31 dinner for 2018 meeting.

An additional \$16,250.00 was spent on the erection of the new Peirce Memorial Monument in Milford, PA.

As of Jan. 4, 2019, the Society's assets were \$39,272.02, an increase of \$3,117.38 from Jan. 1, 2018.

The breakdown of the assets is:

\$19,253.64 in checking,
\$19,949.93 in a money-market account,
\$68.45 in member savings.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kenneth Atkins

5. Report from the Peirce Edition Project

André De Tienne submitted the following report on behalf of the Peirce Edition Project.

January 2019

Report of the Peirce Edition Project to the Charles S. Peirce Society

The present report covers the period from January to December 2018.

Transitions

Carl R. Hausman, a member of the Peirce Project's first advisory board in the late 1970s and early 1980s, passed away on April 9, 2018. He was a contributing editor to volumes 5, 6, and 8 of our edition. We shall long remember his visits to the Project and the pleasant philosophical controversies that animated our conversations.

Another pivotal scholar in the history of Peirce studies was Murray G. Murphey, who died on 6 December 2018. Max H. Fisch credited Murphey's landmark 1961 book (a revision of his 1957 dissertation), *The Development of Peirce's Philosophy*, for having made the strongest possible intellectual case for the need for a comprehensive critical and chronological edition of Peirce's papers. Murphey, too, was a member of the Peirce Project's inaugural advisory board.

Staff

There has been no change to the Peirce Project staff throughout 2018, nor to our chronic understaffing. The School of Liberal Arts continues to be in a state of financial crisis, which only worsened this year with a further 8% drop in enrollment despite energetic efforts to remedy the situation. The Institute for American Thought, which lost its administrative staff, is now headed by a new director, Professor Raymond J. Haberski (History and American Studies). His first priority has turned to negotiations regarding the IAT's use of space and the possibilities of reducing our footprint to save some money. Nothing definite has been decided. He will be a strong advocate of the IAT's mission, and he fully understands and appreciates the significance of our Project, our edition, and our strategic plans for the short and longer term.

NEH grant

After failing three times to receive an ultra-competitive NEH Digital Humanities grant in 2015, 2016, and 2017, we submitted in January 2018 a fourth \$325,000 application for a two-year NEH Digital Humanities Advancement grant meant to help us finish programming STEP. That application was again backed by an array of TEI Consortium and digital humanities specialists, sister editions, an impressive roster of scholars, and the 13 members of an international STEP advisory board made up of the chair and other prominent members of the TEI Consortium board of directors and technical council, digital humanities specialists, and technology specialists. In August 2018, instead of receiving the usual email of rejection, we had the pleasure to receive a phone call announcing the awarding of the grant. The sense of relief and excitement that followed that call cannot be accurately described. The enthusiasm manifested by the reviewers was stunning. Our previous applications had always ranked pretty high but this time we were at the top. One reviewer wrote that our application was the only one that failed to raise any objection or criticism in that person's mind. The NEH officer who placed the call was herself relieved that the Project had finally got that grant, and she explained that other NEH divisions had committed a portion of their own budget to it so thrilled they were about our plans. The whole STEP concept has thus received national approval. We are exceedingly grateful for the federal support. Of course that entails that we have our work cut out for the next two years. The technological challenges are many and daunting. But the thing has been declared to be feasible. Executing the plan is now our task: not only is the future of the Peirce Project at stake, but also that of other editions that are counting on our success.

The grant allows us to hire an accomplished programmer/developer who will be working on STEP full-time for two years; the search has been ongoing for three months but we have not found a solid candidate yet. We cannot afford to make any mistake as to that crucial position, and we will take whatever time is necessary to get the right person. The grant also allows us to hire a student pursuing a Ph.D. in Human-Computer Interaction. We have identified and hired an excellent candidate for that position, Mr. Luis Cavalcanti, who will start on January 14, 2019.

Editorial Accomplishments

Work on volume 9 continued apace this year, despite the small staff. One particular event deserves underlining: the general editor actually finished writing the introduction to the volume. Although he had planned to write an introduction much shorter than those of his highly respected predecessor, the requirements attached to the scholarly task as much as the density of intellectual activities pursued by Peirce persuaded the author not to cut any corner. The resulting product is therefore of greater size than anticipated, having reached monographic length. Scholars who read the introduction agreed that it was worth printing without cuts. Another section that will be just as sizable as in previous volumes is that of the annotations, which our textual editor April Witt has been intensely researching and rewriting for a long time. While we were hoping to finish W9 in December, it turns out that its indexing will take more time than anticipated. The end of the tunnel is now in full view, however, and the light keeps increasing every week.

STEP

STEP has been reconceived as a cloud-based infrastructure. We will thus be able to support multiple projects in the current system, projects that can share and integrate the data in the cloud anywhere around the world. STEP will ultimately consist of a standalone TEI editor and of a virtual STEP Platform workflow management coupled with a TEI online editor system. This will allow any number of editorial projects to use STEP. Saving all data to the cloud provides easy access globally, along with unlimited storage space, robust security, considerable scalability, and especially ease of maintenance and thus appreciable savings: only one person will be needed to

maintain the whole structure instead of multiple maintenance staff in different places. The STEP Transcriptor software has been made more robust through testing, debugging, and additional sub-utilities. More work was also done on the TEI Header Maker software, but it will take several more months to complete that crucial component (without which no TEI document can be complete—see last year’s report for details).

On behalf of the staff of the Peirce Project, I want to express our enormous gratitude to the Peirce Society and to all supporters of the Peirce cause and the Project’s mission. The year ahead will see the completion of W9 and intense technical work on the STEP platform—the gateway toward decentralizing the Peirce Project operation and ensuring longevity to our essential enterprise. Work on W11 will resume on the editorial side. A principal challenge will be moving all W11 transcriptions from their obsolete Adobe FrameMaker files to files readable in Adobe InDesign, the software we shall use to lay out future print volumes.

Respectfully submitted,



André De Tienne

Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

6. Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of New Officers

Robert Cummings Neville submitted the following report on behalf of the nominating committee.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Robert Cummings Neville, with Claudio Paolucci and Arnold Oostra as members, propose the following candidates:

- Michael Raposa for Vice-President (2019–2020, succeeding to the presidency 2020–2021);
- Randall Auxier for at-large member (2019–2022);
- Chiara Ambrosio (2019–2020) for at-large member, to fill a vacancy left by the election of Michael Raposa to Vice-President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Cummings Neville

All nominated persons accepted the nomination. No other persons were nominated. All nominated persons were unanimously elected.

7. Constitutional Amendments

Members of the Society voted on the proposed Constitutional Amendments mentioned in the Executive Committee Report and circulated Nov. 26, 2018. Those amendments were:

Proposed Change 1: To make the outgoing President an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for one year.

1. Article III, Paragraph: *Currently Reads in Part:* The outgoing Vice President will automatically become the new President. *Proposed Amendment:* The outgoing Vice President will automatically become the new President. The outgoing President will automatically become an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for one year.
2. Article IV, Paragraph 1: *Currently Reads in Part:* The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor-in-Chief of the Society's journal, the Society's webmaster, and three members of the Society, one elected each year, to serve a three-year term. *Proposed Amendment:* The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the most recent Fellow of the Charles S. Peirce Society, the Editor-in-Chief of the Society's journal, the Society's webmaster, and three members of the Society, one elected each year, to serve a three-year term.

Proposed Change 2: To vote by electronic means for members of the Executive Committee

1. Article VII: *Currently Reads:* Elections of officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall normally be conducted in the following manner. In consultation with the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The chairperson of the Nominating Committee will report its nominations at the annual business meeting. Any member of the Society, either by voice at the meeting, or by petition addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, may nominate additional persons for any elected office if these persons have given their prior consent. Persons not members of the Society may not hold office. Upon close of nominations, the Secretary-Treasurer will supervise the vote, by voice or a show of hands in case of a single slate, by secret ballot if nominations are contested. The election of officers will be settled by a simple majority of members present and voting at the annual business meeting, and in case of a tie, by the President. The Secretary-Treasurer incumbent at the start of the election will certify the results of the election, and cause them to be published both in the Society's journal and on the Society's website. *Proposed Amendment:* Elections of officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall normally be conducted in the following manner. In consultation with the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The chairperson of the Nominating Committee will report its nominations to the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall announce the nominated persons no fewer than four weeks prior to the annual business meeting. Any member of the Society, by petition addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, may nominate additional persons for any elected office if these persons have given their prior consent. Persons not members of the Society may not hold office. Nominations shall close two weeks prior to the annual business meeting. Upon close of nominations, the Secretary-Treasurer will circulate an electronic ballot to members of the Society. The election of officers will be settled by a simple majority of members voting within one week of circulation of the ballot, and in case of a tie, by the President. The Secretary-Treasurer incumbent at the start of the election will certify the results of the election, announce them at the annual business meeting, and cause them to be published both in the Society's journal and on the Society's website.

Proposed Change 3: To change all instances of "Secretary-Treasurer," "Secretary," or "Treasurer" to "Executive Director."

All changes were unanimously supported.

8. New Business

There was no new business

9. Installment of New President

Ahti Veikko-Pietarinen was installed in absentia as the new president of the Charles S. Peirce Society. Rossella Fabbrichesi read the following statement submitted by him.

I regret not being able to travel to Peirce Society's Annual Meeting which I hope will be as successful and thrilling as it has been in previous years. My interest in Peirce arose from the courses in philosophy of science Risto Hilpinen gave at the University of Turku in the early 90s, followed by Jaakko Hintikka's scholarly enthusiasm as supervisor and mentor, and ultimately leading to the discovery of an unceasing number of gems, especially concerning the development of modern logic, buried within the piles of Peirce's manuscripts and letters, many of them yet to be fully appreciated and much more still to be unearthed. Along the way, I've been inspired, although not necessarily influenced, by writings of Fisch, Roberts, Houser, Haack, Hookway, the late Murphey, Levi, Dipert, Sowa, Woods (John), and many other pioneering students of Peirce's thought and its applications. Two items of news to be shared with the Society. Some of you know that I've for some time now promised the publication of a comprehensive edition of Peirce's Writings on Existential Graphs, entitled Logic of the Future. I can now announce that this edition will start to appear beginning in autumn 2019, in three volumes of about 400 pages each. A related announcement you will want to know is that there will be a new book series entitled "Peirceana", which we have just contracted with Mouton De Gruyter and which I will be editing together with Prof. Francesco Bellucci. The purpose of that book series is to provide a forum for the best current work on Peirce worldwide, including volumes devoted to Peirce's influence on the development of modern sciences and scientific method, as well as his influence on contemporary philosophy from the interdisciplinary perspectives of intellectual inquiry. The series will also publish untranslated, English selections of Peirce's writings. I will invite members of the Society to consider submitting their book proposals to "Peirceana". I look forward to serving the Society during the year and beyond. Do share with me or anyone in the Executive Committee your ideas on the advancement of Peirce scholarship and its continuing legacy, which to me seems very promising indeed. Best regards, Ahti Pietarinen

10. Adjournment

The annual general meeting was adjourned by Richard Kenneth Atkins at 5:00 p.m.