Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society was held at 201 Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, on January 8, 2020. Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen chaired the meeting and called it to order at 9:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2019 Meeting

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Daniel Brunson moved to approve the minutes. Vincent Colapietro seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Report from the Executive Committee

Richard Kenneth Atkins submitted the following report:

Because of a light agenda and constraints on time, the Executive Committee met virtually through an email exchange initiated on Dec. 23, 2019 and concluding January 3, 2020.

1. Non-Profit Status of the Peirce Society

An ad hoc committee (Aaron Wilson, Daniel Brunson, D. Micah Hester, Cornelis de Waal, Richard Atkins) has been struck to examine the non-profit status of the Society. Although the Society is treated as a 501(c) organization by the IRS, it has not been legally incorporated as a 501(c)3. The ad hoc committee's work continues and hopes to report on the prospects for 501(c)3 status at the next meeting.

2. Funding for Scholarship

In 2017, the Society agreed to set aside 2/3rds of the year's income to support scholarship. As our income this year was $7462.27 (excepting interest), the EC has decided to set aside $4,925 to support scholarship. $1000 of that income is designated for the Peirce Essay Prize. Support for work by junior scholars is given priority.

3. Conference in Milford, PA

In April, we had a very successful conference in Milford, PA, to dedicate the new Charles S. Peirce memorial monument. We set aside (and spent) $2,500 to fund the conference. The EC has decided to hold a biannual conference in Milford, with the second conference scheduled for April 2021. Planning for the conference will begin soon.

4. Next Year's Annual General Meeting

The EC has agreed to hold next year's AGM in conjunction with the Eastern APA, which will be held Jan. 4–Jan. 7, 2021, in New York City.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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*.

During the 2019 calendar year we published four issues of the *Transactions*. During this period the number of Peirce submissions showed a modest increase. We continue to struggle, however, attracting high quality submissions, especially within the American philosophy segment.

On June 30, 2019, which marks the end of IU Press's 2019 fiscal year (FY19), the *Transactions* counted 2,432 subscribers, a rather significant decrease compared to the previous three years with 3,110, 2,946, and 2,905 subscribers respectively.
Breaking down the circulation numbers leaves the following picture: the number of Project Muse subscribers decreased quite dramatically, from 2,749 to 2,348. The number of institutional subscribers also decreased dramatically, from 193 to 93. We see a similar pattern for the group of individual subscribers (or members), which decreased from 168 to 91, which brings us close to where we were three years ago with 89 individual subscribers. Some of these fluctuations are due to renewals being out of sync with the count. We sold no individual (print) issues in FY19. The number of subscriptions to JSTOR's "new issue alert" for the *Transactions* went up from 63 in FY17 to 104 in FY18, to 122 in FY19, suggesting that the interest in the journal is not diminishing. Unfortunately, we do not have insight in the number of articles downloaded or accessed through Project Muse or JSTOR.
Overall the *Transactions* made a gross profit of $46,351.79. This compared to $41,982 last year and $48,164 and $42,344 in the two preceding years. Of that 15% went to the Peirce Society, which comes down to $6,952.77. We were charged $40 because of additional typesetting fees, reducing the proceeds to the Society to $6,912.77. This puts us slightly above last year's $6,212.

Cornelis de Waal,
Editor-in-Chief

4. Financial Statement

Richard Kenneth Atkins delivered the following report:

This report is for the period beginning Jan. 4, 2019 and ending Jan. 2, 2020.

The Society's income during this period was $7,611.27:

$549.50 in membership dues;
$6912.77 in *Transactions* royalties;
$149.00 in interest.

The Society's expenditures during this period were $4,986.88:
$2,500.00 for expenses related to the conference in Milford;
$1,000.00 for the Peirce Essay Prize
$293.54 for membership in FISP plus transfer costs
$17.20 for website domain registration;
$354.41 for dinner for 2019 meeting;
$300 for A/V at the Eastern 2020 and Central 2019 APA meetings;
$418.69 for junior scholar support
$102.85 from transfer and returns associated with fees and exchange rates for
    junior scholar support

An additional $4.88 was lost in the member savings account, which represents our shares in the credit union.

As of Jan. 4, 2019, the Society's assets were $41,891.53, an increase of $2,619.51 from Jan. 4, 2019.

The breakdown of the assets is:
$21,729.03 in checking,
$20,098.93 in a money-market account,
$63.57 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 2019.

Transition

Longtime advisory board member Randall R. Dipert passed away on June 23, 2019, at the age of 68. Randy was appointed to the C. S. Peirce Chair of American Philosophy in the (SUNY) University at Buffalo in 2000. He retired in 2017. He was a co-editor and editor of the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* from 1999 to 2008. The Peirce Project benefited

from his expertise in logic, the history and philosophy of logic, Peirce's own logic, the philosophies of logic and mathematics, and the metaphysics and logic of relations. Randy especially contributed to volumes 6 and 8 of our edition.

Staff

There has been no change to the Peirce Project staff throughout 2019, nor to our chronic understaffing. The School of Liberal Arts' state of financial crisis continued to worsen with a further drop in enrollment despite gargantuan efforts to remedy the situation. Our Dean hopes the situation will stabilize this year but has warned that things are bound to get worse again in 2023, when the baby boom's statistical effect will have ended: the student population will effectively get smaller. In the meanwhile, though, and as a result of the worsening situation, a new crisis has taken form, explained below.

PEP Footprint

As mentioned in the 2018 report, the Director of the Institute for American Thought, Professor Raymond J. Haberski (History and American Studies) continued negotiations regarding the IAT's use of space and the possibilities of reducing our footprint to save some money. We have reached a point where this matter requires its own rubric.

The Peirce Project moved to the basement of the Education/Social Work building in 2004, along with the Frederick Douglass Papers and the George Santayana Edition. The Ray Bradbury Center added itself to the mix soon thereafter, but only for a few years: it left the basement and returned to the School's own building, Cavanaugh Hall, some years ago. The 2004 move was coordinated under Dean Hermann Saatkamp's leadership under a previous campus chancellor. The deal with the campus made this combined 8000 sq. ft. space affordable to the School. How much it cost the School annually was never made clear, but it wasn't much. A change of administration occurred at the campus level, and at some point the space-cost algorithm was modified without notice. No one knows when that modification took place. The School began to pay a lot more for the IAT space (and other spaces), without knowing it for the administration was simply retaining that unspecified amount of money at the source. As the School went into a state of financial crisis, it began to look for sources of economies, and it suddenly became clear that space cost was part of the problem, though how much was unclear. Some faculty wondered about the IAT space cost, and initially the School's finance officer waved that concern away, saying that that was not an issue, and indeed it had seemingly never been an issue. Several changes of deans occurred between 2004 and 2019. Our latest Dean, Interim Dean Robert Rebein, began investigating the matter of the IAT space at greater depth. That took a long time because even campus administrators could not provide an answer—until a few months ago, when Dean Rebein told me that the IAT space actually cost the School $100,000 a year. I thought that this was beyond absurdity. But I was wrong by half. Just before the Christmas holiday, Professor Haberski visited me in my office and explained that that calculation had been wrong, too. The cost of the IAT space was actually $200,000 a year. The space used by the Peirce Project and the Max Fisch library is larger than the space used by the Santayana Edition and the Douglas Papers, but there are several common areas as well. The current footprint of PEP and the Max Fisch Library is 4000 sq. ft., not counting the common areas. Thus, our space alone is costing the School $100,000 a year. No one knew, because absurdity pushed to this level is unimaginable.

Why is the campus busy pricing the IAT (and the humanities) out of itself? There is no academic rhyme or reason behind it. The decision is in the exclusive hands of the Vice

Chancellor for Finance and Administration, and she sees it as her mission to make every square foot return a minimum of twenty-five dollars, mostly to keep the campus administration running. She has shown to have zero interest in our research mission. Since IUPUI is run according to an extreme version of the Responsibility Center Management principle (RCM), the School cannot expect any help from campus administration. Units that do not produce revenue are therefore unwelcome. Facing a deficit of $3.5 M, cutting the IAT space has become a priority for the Dean. He believes he has no choice. Part of the solution is to bring the editions back to the School's home, Cavanaugh Hall, where we used to be from 1983 to 2004. But space there is barely available.

The Douglass Papers' footprint is small. Space was found easily for them and they have begun moving back to Cavanaugh Hall. The Santayana Edition will eventually do the same as soon as other space becomes vacant later this year. Professor Haberski informed me that the Dean wants the Peirce Project to vacate the ES building basement before the end of 2020. But our footprint is so large that Cavanaugh Hall cannot be our destination. Negotiations are beginning this very week of the Peirce Society's annual meeting, which is a reason why I cannot attend it to read this report. All I can tell at this stage is that the Dean of University Library is open to the idea of hosting (a portion of) the Peirce Project's collections, and that the fate of the books may well be in the balance. That, to my mind, would be disastrous. I have been asked to assess the size of every collection, weigh their scholarly significance, identify what must be retained, and especially what can be let go.

I am told, repeatedly, that no one questions the value and importance of our holdings, nor least of all of the Peirce Project's mission: that is not the issue. The issue is the imperative to reduce our footprint while keeping in mind the other imperatives of conservation, preservation, operationality, and scholarly access. Those concerns are shared by Indiana University. The Office of the Vice President for Research has developed a University Collections Strategic Plan and has set up a University Collections office, headed by Executive Director Heather Calloway. Dr. Calloway has visited the IAT several times and is familiar with the Max H. Fisch Library and our needs. She will be an integral part to all discussions and decisions in coming weeks and months.

What this all means, practically, is that 2020 will be (again) a most challenging year for the Peirce Project. The principal lesson learned during the 2004 move was that any move is extremely disruptive: it takes a ton of logistical preparation, of calculations, of scheduling, and of time to transport, resettle, and put everything back in operational order, wherever that may be. Our staff in 2004 was twice as large as today. A far smaller staff implies that even more time will be needed to rearrange everything or what is left of that everything. The likelihood is that Project resources may be scattered in different locations, and that even some of the staff may not have office space in the vicinity of those resources.

Through annual reports I have kept the Peirce Society informed about the Project's obvious decline due to personnel attrition, decreasing resources, and the rapid pace of technological evolution. Over these same years, however, our research center's resources have increased and continued to attract visiting scholars. Our collections (summarized in the next paragraph) are formidable and extraordinarily useful, as can attest not only our visitors but also the very many scholars who request and receive well-researched, sometimes very sophisticated, information via email. That there be such a well-appointed research center to sustain research on a philosophical giant of Peirce's stature is essential. I think it is a duty to preserve it, a global duty, as much as a duty toward all those eminent scholars who donated

their papers and libraries to the Project over the last four decades. It is likely that a call for worldwide support will be coming from the Peirce Project and other closely related bodies over the next months.

As a reminder, we have many resources that are essential to the pursuit of Peirce scholarship not only at IUPUI but globally. They include the goldmine constituted by Max Fisch's papers, which contain fifty years of industrious scholarship covering all aspects of Peirce's life and intellectual pursuits, and many other subject-matters besides; his personal library; the papers and library of Carolyn Eisele; the papers and library of Gérard Deledalle; the library of Paul Weiss; the better half of Charles W. Morris's papers, including the archives of the Unified Science Movement of the mid-20th century; portion of the library of Peter H. Hare; portions of the library of Arthur W. Burks together with his papers, which include everything he did regarding the development of the ENIAC, and artifacts related to that magnificent computing machine; smaller collections of papers of David Savan and Joseph Ransdell; books and other artifacts that belonged to Charles Peirce and other family members; smaller repositories coming from various noted scholars; and last but not least, the archives of the Peirce Project accumulated over 40 years of operation, including the papers of former Project directors.

NEH grant and STEP Development

I had the pleasure to announce in 2018 that the Project had received a significant grant from the Digital Humanities Division of NEH to develop STEP. The grant allowed us to hire an accomplished programmer/developer who would be working on STEP full-time for two years. The big surprise is that, after nearly a year and a half of search, we still haven't found a candidate with the requisite competence yet. The vast majority of candidates (with B.S. or M.S. in some form of computer science or informatics) fail our tests or demonstrate that the claims in their CVs do not correspond to reality. I have discussed the matter with NEH and they have confirmed their willingness to wait and extend the grant. We have identified a most promising candidate (a postdoc) over the last few days and are negotiating with that person at the moment.

The grant also allowed us to hire a student pursuing a Ph.D. in Human-Computer Interaction. We hired an excellent candidate for that position, Mr. Luis Cavalcanti, who started on January 14, 2019. He made a comprehensive study of our prototype of the STEP platform and of the way I had designed STEP Transcriptor. On that basis he began designing a transcription interface suitable for the online platform. Unfortunately, tragedy struck at home (back in Brazil) and administrative difficulties emerged regarding his visa situation so that he had suddenly to interrupt his program at IUPUI and return to Brazil. I decided not to replace him until STEP is being under active development.

Meanwhile I have managed to do a great deal of work improving and developing new STEP Tools myself. I have programmed four new tools, all key components, as companion software, to STEP. The most important of them is **STEP Textual Editor,** which is nearly completed yet. It was initially named STEP Emendator, for its main goal was to help textual editors insert encoded emendations within a selected copy-text's finalized transcription, and to build a fully formatted list of such emendations automatically. If it is one thing to encode authorial insertions or deletions (using **STEP Transcriptor**), incorporating editorial corrections turns out to be a completely different encoding affair. The more I studied it, the more I realized that what was needed was a comprehensive tool that would do a lot more than incorporate emendations. It had to be a tool that facilitated all the roles

fulfilled by a textual editor: creating emendations lists, lists of variants and rejected substantives, lists of regularizations, textual notes discussing special textual cruxes and how they are resolved in emendations, and crosslinks between emendations and authorial alterations. The result of that reconceptualization is **STEP Textual Editor,** so named to honor the difficult and complex job of a critical textual editor. All operations having to do with emendations (three types of them), regularizations, and textual notes have been programmed. What remains has mostly to do with the lists of rejected substantives, the rendition of a fully emended text, and the building of TEI-compliant apparatus lists (to the extent of TEI Guidelines that are incomplete in that respect).

The three other STEP tools I have programmed are all related to the Textual Editor's job as well, but some also to other members of an editorial team, such as the transcribers. Such is the case of **STEP Alternator**, which provides *three distinct utilities* to help encode authorial or editorial alternative readings in STEP Transcriptor and STEP Textual Editor. *The simplest of those utilities* allow editors to encode alternative authorial readings, such as when an author inscribes one word on the line, another one just above it, and forgets to decide which one ought to be preferred. *The second utility* helps encode alternative editorial interpretations of unclear readings. It provides ways of doing so for both exclusive alternations and inclusive alternations. The latter occur when some alternants are as plausible as others and should therefore not be excluded but reported just as well. Each such alternant can be provided with a distinct weight, and TEI provides a way to encode that varying weight. STEP Alternator makes this complex kind of encoding fairly easy to produce. *The third utility* allows the encoding of alternative versions of a same sequence of text (because they were modified across time or across editions) while taking into account, or not, surrounding modifications their selection or exclusion may depend on. I take STEP Alternator to be a genuine contribution to the art of TEI encoding, especially because alternations are reputed for their encoding complexity.

The third STEP Tool I have developed is **STEP Hand and Type Descriptor.** This software, too, contains three sub-utilities: one that helps encode descriptions of the various handwritings occurring in a given textual witness, attributing to each an identification and an explanation of its extent ; one that helps encode descriptions of each particular script; and one that helps encode descriptions of typewriter characteristics in case a document had been typed. Some of those data become important sources of attributes to distinct text witnesses and are equally relevant for STEP Transcriptor and STEP Textual Editor.

The fourth and last STEP Tool I have created is **STEP Witness-List Maker**. This useful utility helps editors create lists of text witnesses painlessly. Any given text can have a number of "witnesses," a term that stands for any version or draft or proof or iteration or edition or reprint of a given document across time. Establishing a critical or documentary text requires that all of its witnesses be properly identified, described, assigned a unique ID, and listed. Collations of all those texts help determine which one(s) ought to form the "copy-text," establish lists of variants (based on witnesses preceding the declared copy-text) and lists of rejected substantives (based on witnesses subsequent to the copy-text), and identify authority sources for emendations to be imposed onto the copy-text. STEP Witness-List Maker allows users to create, maintain, and export the list of those witnesses to STEP Textual Editor, where their related sigla play a crucial role.

As a reminder, STEP will have a cloud-based infrastructure, and our technical editor Young Chang has worked a great deal this year to ready such a solution for STEP. STEP will

therefore support multiple projects based anywhere around the world. Chang also migrated all of our online websites, including the STEP Platform and the Peirce Project's regular website, to a new server system recently adopted by Indiana University. One consequence is a modification to the Peirce Project's website address: it is now https://peirce.iupui.edu. The old address (http://www.peirce.iupui.edu) should redirect to it automatically.

Editorial Accomplishments

Work on volume 9 continued throughout 2019, though not as briskly as it should have been due to the director's numerous duties and university commitments. All sections of the volumes have been finalized except for the Annotations, which have to be laid out and indexed. We encountered one unforeseen difficulty, which is that the volume, being laid out using the now-obsolete Adobe FrameMaker+SGML software, is beholden to the Times font (W8's font as well). The font is embedded within the DTD that governs the whole volume. Once the volume is done, FrameMaker turns the entire series of files into a printable book in the form of a long PDF file. It turns out that Adobe Acrobat (and many other software companies) stopped maintaining a Times font license years ago. As a result, no correction to the content of a FrameMaker PDF can be made directly into the PDF because the font, though famous, is no longer recognized. The practical consequence is that all corrections and adjustments need to be done in FrameMaker files and then be recompiled, a very slow process. This is exactly the type of hiccups that STEP seeks to obviate, with a workflow that, as far as print is concerned (as opposed to the online product), will be geared toward Adobe InDesign. That W9 will be done in 2020 is obviously our goal, despite the storm ahead.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

André De Tienne

Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

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

Risto Hilpinen submitted the following report on behalf of the nominating committee.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Risto Hilpinen, with Frederik Stjernfelt and Francesco Bellucci as members, propose the following candidates:

- John Woods for Vice-President (2020–2021, succeeding to the presidency 2021–2022);
- Chiara Ambrosio for at-large member (2020–2023);
- Richard Kenneth Atkins (2020–2023) for Executive Director.

Respectfully Submitted,

Risto Hilpinen

All nominated persons accepted the nomination. Following the new constitutional guidelines, the nominees were announced to all members by email on Dec. 3, 2019. Having received no other nominations by Dec. 25, 2019, nominations closed and the persons nominated were elected by acclamation.

7. New Business

Daniel Brunson encourages members of the Society to buy lottery tickets and donate the proceeds to the Peirce Society.

8. Installment of New President

Michael Raposa was installed as the new president of the Charles S. Peirce Society.

9.   Adjournment

The annual general meeting was adjourned by Michael Raposa at 9:28 p.m.