

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

The Annual General Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society was held virtually via zoom on January 13, 2022. Rosa Mayorga chaired the meeting and called it to order at 3:58 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 Meeting

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were posted online. Attendees were directed to the website to review them. Rosa asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Cornelis de Waal so moved and André De Tienne seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Report from the Executive Committee

Richard Kenneth Atkins submitted the following report.

The Executive Committee Meeting was held January 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. EST, via Zoom. Present were: Rosa Mayorga, Michael Raposa, Richard Kenneth Atkins, Catherine Legg, Randall Auxier, and Cornelis de Waal. Sending their regrets were: John Woods and Chiara Ambrosio.

Agenda Items

- (A) Non-profit status update
- (B) Funding for scholarship
- (C) Next year's AGM
- (D) Planning for the canceled APA sessions
- (E) Any other business

(A) Non-profit status update: Atkins reported that we have submitted the requisite paperwork to our lawyer. We have been incorporated in the state of Indiana and organizational actions have been filed. However, because most of our income is from the publication of the *Transactions* and because that income exceeds \$5,000 in a given year, the Society cannot be established as a publicly supported charity but must be established as a private foundation. As a consequence, we cannot file the simpler 1023EZ with the IRS but must file the full 1023 form and pay a \$600 filing fee.

The lawyer we have hired estimates the cost for this to be an additional \$2,100, including a \$600 filing fee. We have currently expended \$1,503.49 on lawyer fees for this process, which includes filing fees. Atkins reports that we have ample funds to cover these expenses (see below). He requested approval of the additional expenditure of \$2,100 for this purpose. The request was unanimously approved by those present.

(B) Funding for scholarship: Every year, we set aside a certain amount of funding for scholarship, usually 2/3rds of the year's income. This includes the \$1,000 set aside for the Peirce prize. Atkins reported that the income this past year was \$7,422.77. 2/3rds of that

is \$4,950. Atkins requested that that amount of money be set aside for funding for scholarship, with which the committee unanimously agreed.

(C) Next year's AGM: Atkins proposed that we continue to hold our annual conference in conjunction with the E-APA in Washington, D.C., especially as this keeps us in line with the calendar year. The committee unanimously agreed.

(D) Planning for the canceled APA sessions: Because of illness and travel restrictions, we were forced to canceled our planned sessions for the Eastern APA, which included our annual general meeting and AMC session on James Liszka's recent book. Atkins asked for advice on how best to proceed in rescheduling the sessions, especially as the President John Woods would not be able to deliver his address. It was decided that we would reschedule the Peirce Prize Presentation and the AGM meeting for one day and separately schedule the AMC panel. The meetings will be held via zoom.

(E) Any other business: Atkins reported that Chiara Ambrosio, in sending her regrets, warmly reminds Peirce scholars are especially welcome to submit panel proposals or individual abstracts for the upcoming European Pragmatism Conference, which she is organizing in London in August. Details here: <https://europeanpragmatism.org/events/fourth-european-pragmatism-conference/> . The conference will be preceded by a meeting of the Women in Pragmatism network, which we featured in the last Society Newsletter.

Dwayne Tunstall has resigned from the *Transactions*. Cornelis de Waal is currently seeking a replacement to handle non-Peirce related submissions.

Randall Auxier expressed concerns regarding the Peirce Edition Project, both because it has been forced to move to new and inadequate space and because the appearance of volume nine has been delayed. It was decided that we should reach out to the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Peirce Edition Project for an update on their status and support for the PEP.

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*.

2021 Transactions Report

During the 2021 calendar year we produced four issues of the *Transactions*. The fourth issue was slightly delayed due to a personnel change at IU Press and an unexpected problem with the proofs at the printer. Among the highlights of 2021 is a special symposium dedicated to Peirce's views on assertion. Non-Peirce submissions have been lagging and delays in dealing with submissions led to the departure of our non-Peirce editor, Dwayne Tunstall, and we will soon be actively looking for a replacement.

On June 30, 2021, which marks the end of IU Press's 2021 fiscal year (FY21), the *Transactions* counted 2378 subscribers, which is slightly less than the year before (2,432 subscribers).

Breaking down the circulation numbers leaves the following picture: the number of Project Muse subscribers remains stable at around 2,200 subscriptions. The number of institutional subscribers decreased again slightly to 88. We saw a more significant drop in individual subscribers (or members), down from 94 to 73. Note that some fluctuations may be due to renewals being out of sync with the fiscal year, and it is further unclear whether, and if so how, the continued pandemic has had any bearing on these numbers. We sold ten individual print issues in FY21. The number of subscriptions to JSTOR's "new issue alert" for the *Transactions* continues to steadily increase, with 145 in FY21, compared to 63 in FY17, which is when we started. Unfortunately, we do not have insight in the number of articles downloaded or accessed through either Project Muse or JSTOR.

Overall, the *Transactions* made a gross profit of \$43,818.46, which is close to \$3,000 less than the previous two fiscal years. This compared to \$41,982 the year before that, and \$48,164 and \$42,344 in the two preceding years. Of that 15% went to the Peirce Society, which comes down to \$6,572.77, which is \$340 less than last year. We were charged \$21.61 because of a page overrun for 56.3, reducing the proceeds to the Society to \$6,551.16.

Cornelis de Waal,
Editor-in-Chief

Jon Alan Schmidt asked about access to the *Transactions* via JSTOR being transferred to Project Muse. Cornelis de Waal noted he was unaware of the change but will make inquiries into the matter. Schmidt noted that he also has an inquiry about the matter in to IU Press.

4. Financial Statement

Richard Kenneth Atkins delivered the following report:

This report is for the period beginning Jan. 5, 2021 and ending Jan. 4, 2022.

The Society's income during this period was \$7,473.26:

\$6,572.77 in *Transactions* royalties

\$850.00 in membership dues

\$50.49 in interest

Membership dues represent those from 2020. 2021 membership dues have not been deposited into the account. I have been in contact with Indiana University Press about the matter.

The Society's expenditures during this period were:

\$1,000.00 for the Peirce Essay Prize

\$832.52 for membership dues to FISP and DLMPST
\$229.00 for SAAP participant expenses
\$1,503.49 for non-profit incorporation legal expenses
\$17.20 for website domain renewal

As of Jan. 4, 2021, the Society's assets were \$51,732.93, an increase of \$3,891.17 from Jan. 4, 2021.

The breakdown of the assets is:

\$16,440.78 in checking,
\$35,223.34 in a money-market account,
\$68.81 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.

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

The present report covers the period from January to December 2021.

As explained in the 2020 report to the Society, the Project's editorial staff was reduced to only three full-time employees: Associate Textual Editor April Witt, NEH-funded STEP Developer Kannan Govindarajan, and myself. This was the result of the School of Liberal Arts's worsening financial crisis compounded by the pandemic. The School's financial situation throughout 2021 continued to decline. A new Dean was appointed effective 1 January 2021, Professor Tamela Eitle, a sociologist. She spent her first few months listening to everyone and learning about the School and its intricate complexities. She visited the Peirce Project in mid-year and was positively struck by what she saw: the Max Fisch library, the many collections, the vast footprint covered with file cabinets full of archival and editorial resources. She immediately understood both the significance and the challenge. We discussed the need to move the Project outside the basement and back to Cavanaugh Hall—the School's own building which we had left in 2004—as well as the benefits this could represent to the School, also in terms of student engagement and curricular impact. Recognizing that there was no adequate space to fully house the Project in Cavanaugh Hall (CA), decision was made to first move the Santayana Edition back to CA, and then to take advantage of the vacated space to consolidate all of PEP's furniture into it so as to reduce the Institute's footprint in the basement from 8,000 to 4,000 square feet (thus from an annual space rent cost of \$200,000 down to \$100,000). No pressing timetable was set, for the matter could not really rise at the top of the Dean's priorities, entirely taken by the need to stop the drop in student enrollment. Little did we know that a "natural" disaster was about to strike.

Mold is cold

Sometime in September, white spots were observed on the fabric of several chairs within several PEP offices. I immediately reported the fact to university services. The cause was rapidly identified: white mold. An expert came to take samples here and there. Mold was found scattered over the permanently frigid area we occupy on the north side of the basement (not on the south side of the hallway, where our “lab” was located). It had been attacking not only the chairs’ fabric but also their wooden parts, and three dozen books in the library. Excessive humidity well above 70% was found to be the cause, which Campus Facilities Service could not explain. Within one week we were ordered to vacate our offices for health concerns. Giant blowers and dehumidifiers were installed by a private specialized company everywhere to extract an industrial quantity of water from the air. It took me days to pack thousands of files and folders that were in file cabinets (not contaminated) into boxes, which were then left on site in the hallway for future relocation. April, Kannan, and I left campus to work at home since there was nowhere else to go. The head of IU Collections, with the head of Campus Facilities Services and the head of the Environmental and Health Services, took charge of the entire operation. They sealed off the basement and declared it off limits.

Given the situation, the Dean decided that the Peirce Project would never return to the basement of that building. This meant that we had to return to Cavanaugh Hall despite the lack of space. The Project was assigned a suite of offices in a corner of the second floor, in CA 213 (about 800 sq. ft.), formerly the home of the department of geography (disbanded because of faculty attrition). That suite consists of four small offices, one storage area, and one larger common area. The second floor is windowless and mostly devoted to classrooms. In addition, April and I were each assigned a small office on the fifth floor, she on the east side and I on the west side of the floor in the middle of the Economics Department.

The CA 213 suite was in the worst condition, especially the 50-year-old worn-out carpet. The School agreed to repaint all the walls but not to replace the carpet because it was glued on asbestos. The suite was finally ready in mid-December. The person in charge of space planning determined that it would be able to accommodate nearly all of our file cabinets. The first part of the move took place on December 22: the boxes of files and books were brought to the two fifth-floor offices, and the furniture from the PEP lab, including the Deledalle Papers and the Houser files, was brought to CA 213, along with their boxed contents. The rest of the furniture, including the Max Fisch Papers, will be moved in later during this current month of January 2022. Resettling everything is likely going to take several weeks.

As to the Max Fisch Library, I am sad to report that it will be moved (when declared safe) entirely to the Law School Library, one-third mile away, where it will be loaded on moveable shelves. The good news is that it will be all kept together. The downside is of course that it is far away. It is an essential resource to our research, and much time will have to be spent walking back and forth with books between CA and the Law School.

The CA 213 suite will not be large enough to store all of our archives. Whatever is left over will need to be stored elsewhere, perhaps in University Library. That remains a matter

under negotiation. The Burks collection, including ENIAC, is taken over by IU Collection and will go elsewhere in some location yet to be determined. A portion of my own professional files will be stored in CA 213 for the office assigned to me on the fifth floor is less than half the size of the office I vacated. We have lost all of our long tables. CA 213 can only accommodate a shorter narrower table in the common area to do our work on the manuscripts, and also to allow research visitors to conduct their own work. Needless to say, this new setup is less than ideal. It is likely temporary, but how temporary the temporary will be is temporarily unanswerable.

One consequence of this enormous disruption to our work is that the three of us have been working from home since September since there was nowhere else to go. My own home study was turned into the Peirce Project, with five computers holding all of our data and software—and, most importantly, Max Fisch’s photographic portrait overlooking my work.

Editorial work

W9 remains unfinished and on the backburner. Decision has been taken to revise the entire print publication strategy of the Peirce Project, for it is evident that with only two editors available to do the work we are unable to maintain a workflow that should involve a continuous stream of manuscript organization and dating, transcription, proofreading, textual apparatus creation, research annotations, and so on. New plans are in the works that are bound to transform the print edition considerably. I will not provide any detail about it in the current report because that would be premature at this stage.

NEH grant

The greatest portion of the PEP Director’s time had again to be devoted to the NEH Digital Humanities grant-funded STEP project, working with Dr. Govindarajan.

STEP Progress

As explained in last year’s report, we had been developing a specialized software called “TEI-XML Components” that helps bring all the TEI Components inside STEP and STEP Tools through a variety of multidimensional arrays. De Tienne continued to develop, test, and improve it each time the TEI Technical Council updated their Guidelines, which happens every six months. Issues encountered were usually caused by the fact that TEI’s hundreds of XML, DTD, and HTML files don’t always use a consistent syntax. Retrieving the right kind of information and reproducing it correctly requires algorithms that are aware of such syntactical variations. Identifying the latter and tweaking algorithms accordingly is how programs become more “robust”—a robustness born from increased flexibility. The app became therefore very reliable. The next step we took was to create five versions of that software and make them available to the TEI community (and anyone else). On the encouragement of some TEI colleagues we entered it in the annual TEI Consortium competition known as the “Sebastian Rahtz Prize,” named after the greatest software engineer in TEI history. The award is designed to encourage the creation of digital solutions that support and spread TEI methodology across disciplines. One requirement for the award was that any solution created and proposed to the attention of the jury have a web presence, which we therefore created: please visit the new tab, “TEI-XML Software,” on the Peirce Project website (<https://peirce.iupui.edu/TEI.html>). Exploring it will provide

a partial but vivid idea of TEI-XML Components and two other apps that have been merged within it: “Explore TEI-XML Files” and “Explore XML:lang Subtags Utility”. The site provides plenty of illustrations and explanations. Users can easily download the illustrated user guides that accompany the software. The software can be downloaded in five distinct versions: MacOSX, Linux 32 bit, Linux x64 bit, Windows 32 bit, and Windows x86-64 bit. The software is therefore cross-platform. It is not portable to IOS or Android for it is not conceived for tiny playful screens. It is for serious scholars working from professional workstations.

Of course we did not expect to win the Rahtz contest over against several other sophisticated teams of TEI programmers, and indeed did not win it. We were looking instead for some level of public recognition that would be useful to our aims, and especially for critical feedback from the experts (long-time members of the TEI Technical Council). That feedback was overall very positive and confirmed we were on the right track. One TEI member exclaimed that the interface “look[ed] just like I imagine the specification pages for the online Guidelines should work. Nice job!” And another remarked insightfully that “For most people outside the quite small group of TEI aficionados the TEI remains a formidable older relative, to be approached with caution if at all. This app may significantly lower the access barriers, which would be a real step forward.”

Dr. Govindarajan and I wondered how best to leverage the work done on the TEI-XML Components app to the benefit of the STEP platform. The app’s multidimensional arrays concentrate a very large set of data regarding TEI elements, values, attributes, datatypes, models, classes of attributes within optimally searchable structures. We decided to convert those arrays not into SQL relational databases because they remain two-dimensional but into “NoSQL” databases, and we settled on MongoDB. It happens that MongoDB is JSON-friendly, and that JSON strings can easily represent multidimensional arrays. We therefore developed an ad-hoc utility capable of transforming the enormous arrays from TEI-XML Components into JSON strings.

Dr. Govindarajan spent most of his time developing the online version of STEP Transcripator, taking his inspiration from the standalone version. The online version is crucial for STEP’s success. The standalone is serving as a prototype for the online version, but it is itself no mere prototype: it is a fully working app with several dozen embedded utilities. Like other STEP Tools, it is designed to accompany the STEP platform and replace it whenever transcribers need to encode complex documents (texts strewn with all sorts of authorial alterations, often multilayered, or texts that mix regular text with mathematical, logical, and other scientific symbols, or texts that are multilingual). Work on STEP Transcripator entails work on the TEI-XML encoding editor. That work is ongoing and is taking much more time than expected because we had underestimated the difficulty of converting LiveCode programming logic into Ruby-language logic. This is turning into quite an experience, but Dr. Govindarajan is now getting more accustomed to the process. He decided to use DreamWeaver to build the interface more efficiently and quickly, and is achieving great results.

Another crucial activity has been work on the workflow. There are two aspects to it. One is the design of the interface that allows users to select which STEP Desk to sit and work at (as it were), or that allows editors to navigate among Desks. The other is the file

management system. Such a system must allow users to create new files, work on them iteratively (from initial typing to rounds of proofreadings and corrections to perfected output), stage by stage, and substage by substage within each stage. Editors in charge must be able to access a view that displays the status of each text, what is its production stage, who is in charge of it, what issues have been flagged regarding its contents, and so on. The same system must enable users to call up any such file into view for examination or further editing. Here, too, a prototype has been developed, initially under the form of an app called “STEP Production Monitor,” but now reworked into something more sophisticated, “STEP Platform Prototype.” Dr. Govindarajan is busy emulating it as he devises a similar solution using Ruby on Rails.

Worth pointing out here is the set of utilities we have devised to help editors customize their file management. File management ultimately relies on a well-organized directory of files that sits on a server or even on a regular workstation, depending on setups. Years of experience at the Peirce Project have taught us to maintain files within a directory that mimics the workflow as accurately as possible. Take for instance an unpublished manuscript that has just been paginated, dated, and selected for publication. It first goes to the Transcriber who begins typing it and encoding its alterations according to TEI rules. This yields an initial copy. That copy goes through several rounds of proofreading: sessions where they are read aloud between two staff members, other sessions where they are read by a specialist of the author, and other sessions where the transcription is read against the original manuscript in its holding archive. Such a document goes through multiple iterations until it reaches a state called “perfected”. All of those files need to find their way into a single subfolder, with each filename coded to indicate its substage sequence. Then a copy of the perfected copy goes to the Textual Editor and other specialist scholars for critical editing. Emendations from different parties are suggested on distinct copies. The Textual Editor consolidates them all, reconciliates what needs to be reconciliated, holds sessions where textual cruxes are discussed, and so on. The decisions are made, the Textual Editor enters emendations in the master editing copy, those are TEI-encoded, the subsequent files are proofread and corrected several times, and lists of emendations are created. That process generates once more several files all of which need to go into a distinct folder, each with its own filename carrying a sequential substage code. Those two folders sit within a higher level folder designated for that particular authorial manuscript. Other subfolders in time are added to that same folder: for research annotations and for layout (with its multiple passes). A similar folder template applies to every other item in the body text. But the same to a lesser but still considerable extent applies to all other components of a volume: the front matter (title page, copyright page, frontispiece, contents, preface, introduction, etc.) and the back matter (annotations, editorial essay, symbols, catalogs, bibliography, textual apparatus, index).

We have developed several utilities to build such a complex directory in a way that not only mimics the workflow but actually maps the workflow itself volume by volume according to specific volume needs. The first utility, “Create Corpus,” lets users set the directory for the entire contents of the front and back matter in one fell swoop. The second utility is used to set the directory for the body text (the author’s texts) itself, item by item, indicating what stages and substages each will need to go through. The third utility, “Create groups,” allows the user to group those texts that constitute a subcollection within the body

text. This matters for instance when there is a need to provide a TEI header that is shared by all members of the subcollection.

More work has been done in the creation of a scalable cloud-based architecture based on Mongo DB and we have worked out an entire set of interactions between STEP Transcriber and Mongo DB. We developed and tested a proof of concept for the cloud-based deployment of the STEP Platform. We have used two Docker containers, one for running the STEP platform and another for running the MongoDB database. Docker is an open-source containerization platform which enables the users to package applications into containers. It consists of standardized executable components which are combined with the application source code, operating system libraries, and the dependency software required to run the code.

Final words

On behalf of the staff of the Peirce Project, I want to express our continued gratitude to the Peirce Society and to all supporters of the Peirce cause and the Project's mission. Last year's report stated "Perhaps the long promised W9 will be completed, perhaps not: that will depend largely on the level of disruption we will need to face." Disruption happened on a scale we had not foreseen. PEP's future does depend on the success of the STEP platform—the gateway toward decentralizing the Peirce Project operation and ensuring longevity to our essential enterprise. But it also depends on the community's faith in and support for the enterprise. Peirce studies are crucial for the success of transdisciplinary scholarship worldwide. There has been a growing convergence of research and methods across disciplines that in important part rests on a Peircean outlook. This is evident in the direction taken by current metaphysical interpretations of quantum mechanics (deeply anti-nominalistic), by current work down in multiple branches of semiotics including especially biosemiotics and semioethics, but also in the philosophy of communication and in information theory, as well as in the neurosciences. The United States should do a lot more to support the publication of the writings of one of its most significant thinkers. A terrific amount of good work on Peirce is being done in many places throughout the world, especially outside the US. The reality is that such scholarship needs the Peirce Project to thrive and needs access to our many resources: after all, including the Max Fisch papers, the Eisele papers, the Burks papers, the Deledalle papers, the Charles W. Morris papers, the PEP papers, the Paul Weiss library, the Peter Hare library, we are the repository of more than seventy years of sustained scholarship. Dozens of doctoral dissertations have depended and continue to depend on our resources. Everyone needs us, and we need everyone's support and advocacy.

Respectfully submitted,



André De Tienne

Director and General Editor, Peirce Edition Project

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

Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen submitted the following report on behalf of the nominating committee, which Richard Kenneth Atkins read.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen, with Daniele Chiffi and Claudia Cristalli as members, propose the following candidates:

- Yi Jiang (Shanxi University, CH) for Vice-President (2022–2023, succeeding to the presidency 2023–2024);
- Francesco Bellucci (University of Bologna, IT) as At-Large Member 2022-2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen

All nominated persons accepted the nomination. Following the new constitutional guidelines, the nominees were announced to all members by email on Nov. 20, 2021. Having received no other nominations by Jan 1, 2022, nominations closed and the persons nominated were elected by acclamation.

7. New Business

Rosa Mayorga asked whether there was any new business. There was none.

8. Installment of New President

Rosa Mayorga was installed as the new president of the Charles S. Peirce Society.

9. Adjournment

Yi Jiang congratulated Rosa Mayorga on assuming the presidency and Bernardo Andrade for his prize winning presentation. He remarked that he looks forward to working with the Peirce Society over the coming years. He is currently working on translating writings of Charles S. Peirce into Chinese. He expressed his desire to learn more about how to effectively present Peirce's work to new audiences. He looks forward to participating in our meetings over the coming years, perhaps by Zoom.

Rosa adjourned the annual general meeting at 4:39 p.m.