

Minutes to the SBS Annual Business Meeting
6/9/07; 12:30 pm-1:15 pm.
Annapolis, MD

Board Members in attendance: Co-Presidents: Phyllis Lassner, Roger Rothman; Treasurer: Robin Rissler; Membership Secretary: Debra-Rae Cohen; SBS Journal Editor: Kristin Bluemel; Board Advisors: Clair Buck; Geneviève Brassard; Conference organizer: David Boxwell

Board Members absent: Webmaster: Anahit Ter-Stepanian; Board Advisors: J.J. Butts

Old Business:

1. The Board thanked David for the wonderful job he did organizing this year's conference, which seems to get better and better with each passing year. David then offered a few generous words of thanks to the members in attendance.
2. The issue of acquiring non-profit status was again raised, and has yet to be resolved.
3. Kristin reported on the journal which members are expected to receive via post this coming fall or winter. She reiterated the importance of having members contact their libraries to request that they purchase subscriptions to the journal so as to increase its circulation beyond the current level of 200 copies per issue.
4. Members were informed of the bylaws stating that members serve three year terms.

New Business:

1. A call for members to assist with acquiring non-profit status. One hand was raised and hopefully one of the board members will be contacted shortly.
2. A call for nominations to the Advisory Board was announced and two new board members were elected unanimously: Patrick Deer and Ann Rea.
3. Phyllis introduced us to next year's conference which will be held at Northwestern on June 12-13. A conference board consisting of evaluators from different disciplines was requested in order to better handle the increasing diversity of submissions that the society has been receiving of late and which will likely continue to increase.
4. A call was made for members to inform the board of listservs and websites that are used to find out about upcoming conferences. An updates record of such listservs and websites will be used to post the conference's CFP this fall.
5. An open discussion concerning the growing size of the conference ensued. This year was the first year that three concurrent panels were used, with a total of 72 papers delivered. Many members stated that they would not like to see the conference grow much beyond its current size. Phyllis expects that next year's conference will draw a larger number of submissions because of its location in Chicago. Raising the number of concurrent panels did not seem attractive to most; nor did increasing the number of days or the length of individual days. It was suggested that one way to manage the expected increase in submissions would be to rigorously narrow the focus of the topic. Kristin reiterated the issue of the journal's distribution size as largely dependent on the size of the conference attendees and the positive effect on the journal of an increase in the size of the conference. No vote was taken, but it seemed that a general consensus was to avoid growing the conference beyond its current size of 70-75 participants.