

ACIS Executive Committee Meeting
Keogh Institute of Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame
13 April 2005

Present:

Matt Jockers (ex officio), Nora McGuinness (ex officio), Jim Rogers, John Harrington, Eileen Kearney, Thomas Ihde, Rachel Sealy Lynch, Maria Tymoczko, Jose Lanter, Jerrod Casway, Eamonn Wall, Kathryn Conrad.

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm.

Announcements and Greetings.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Motion: To approve the Executive Committee minutes of 7/12/2004.

Moved; seconded; motion approved unanimously.

II. President's Report:

A. Ad Hoc Committee on Executive Committee Membership. [*Appended]

Discussion and motions on each recommendation:

1. There was much interest shown by the membership in the Ireland/Tymoczko-edited ACIS Annual. The areas covered by the annual cross disciplinary boundaries and constituencies, and their representatives are not necessarily competent in each other's fields. It would be useful for ACIS to cultivate relationships and memberships in these fields better. For Irish and for Celtic studies, ACIS is not necessarily the first conference or organization of choice. It would be useful to develop a presence at the other conferences, like we do at MLA and AHA.

Motion: To approve recommendation 1:

Moved; seconded; 0 in favor, 6 opposed, rest abstain. Motion failed.

2. Curiosity was expressed about the reason for the change in the arts representative's title. It was noted that cultural studies does not represent the performance focus of many of the reps. "Literature and cultural studies" was considered as a possibility.

Motion: To approve recommendation 2:

Moved; seconded; 0 in favor, 7 opposed, rest abstain. Motion failed.

3. No discussion.

Motion: To approve recommendation 3:

Moved; seconded; 8 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion approved.

4. Jockers recommended contracting out the layout to a graphic designer.

Motion: To approve recommendation 4:

Moved; seconded; 7 in favor, 0 opposed, rest abstain. Motion approved.

Further motions:

5. Motion: To recommend renaming the Celtic Studies Representative the Early Irish Studies Representative.

Moved; seconded; 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions. Motion approved.

6. Motion: To recommend renaming the Literature Representative the Literature and Cultural Studies Representative.

Discussion: There was concern about this excluding History.

Moved; seconded; 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. Motion approved.

B. ACIS supplementary conference support and criteria.

Should we continue to fund conference support (\$500 each)? Discussion of raising the amounts to \$1000. Perhaps set limit to number of applications.

Motion: to recommend to the new Executive the continuation of funding and the setting of guidelines for funding.

Moved; seconded; motion approved unanimously.

C. ACIS / Irish Studies History. No proposals were received to write this history, although there was some interest expressed.

D. Graduate student and untenured faculty funds. Discussion: We might consider having travel funds named after distinguished ACIS senior members. We would need to vet and publicize the availability of these funds. Perhaps there should be one committee to review a set number of applications for ACIS. It was suggested that tenure-track faculty are not in the same category of need as non-tenure-track faculty and graduate students.

**Motion: to recommend that the new Executive consider this issue.
Moved; seconded; motion approved unanimously.**

E. Past President's Meeting Friday, April 15, 11 am: all are invited.

Other recommendations: to move the Executive Committee meeting so it is not the first day of the conference. This suggestion was received with general support.

III. Vice President's Report

A. Election results / electronic communications.

[**Appended]

Discussion: the new Executive needs to revisit this issue. The response rate may also be partly attributed to old addresses, inactive members in the old database. A recommendation was made that if the old database was purged of members, the old data should be saved. Perhaps at dues renewal, members can be given the option to receive a paper ballot. The general consensus was to continue moving forward with electronic voting.

B. Book prizes.[See website for awards.] Reporting time for the committee may have been too early and the submission deadline a bit too late. Publishers need to know they must send books to the entire committee.

C. Future conference sites.

2006: University of Missouri-St. Louis, April 19-22.

2007: City University of New York.

Motion: to commit to University of Missouri-St. Louis (2006) and City University of New York (2007), with details to come.

Moved; seconded; motion approved unanimously.

IV. Treasurer [absent]

V. Publications Committee Report. No response to the call for publications projects.

VI. Regional Representatives. [***Appended below]

VII. Discipline Representatives. [****Appended below]

Literature: Appended below.

Irish Language: There will be a panel on Friday about the marketing of Irish language. 2 ACIS members contracted to do an Irish textbook.

Celtic Studies: Very pleasure to see the crossovers between early Irish and other disciplines in the ACIS volume submissions.

History: Trying to put together a panel on sports and the Irish.

Motion to adjourn. Moved; seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Conrad

Secretary

ACIS West: Instead of meeting in Tucson, ACIS West will be meeting at Oregon State. Women of Some Importance.

***Regional Representatives Reports:

Midwest Representative Report (James Rogers):

- The 2004 regional meeting at University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee was a dazzling success both in content and execution. All glory, laud, an honor to Jose Lanter and her colleagues!
- The idea to establish a lasting tribute to the late Larry McBride, which will take the form of a named lecture at the regional meeting, was received with great enthusiasm when proposed at the regional meeting. No action has yet been taken regarding the proposal.
- As a copy of the region's constitution and bylaws proved extremely difficult to obtain, the membership took the step of ratifying these documents at the business meeting. Copies have been provided to the national secretary and to regional officers.
- The 2005 Midwest regional will be held at Loras College in Dubuque October 20-22. The conference theme is "The Spirit of Ireland." Eavan Boland will give a reading in association with the conference. Andrew Auge, the conference organizer, has already mailed a paper version of the CFP, with a deadline of July 15.
- The 2006 will be held at the University of Northern Illinois in DeKalb, under the leadership of Sean Farrell. Dates have not been set.

MidAtlantic Representative Report (via Bill Rogers):

The Mid-Atlantic Regional of the American Conference for Irish Studies will hold its annual conference on November 11-12, 2005. The conference theme is "Ireland and Memory." Scholars have been writing about Ireland and memory from perspectives as diverse as those of Declan Kiberd and Roy Foster. The recent spate of commemorations and the battles over the preservation of Ireland's historical sites have heightened the attention paid to this issue. Clearly, the way in which Ireland and its culture are remembered both from within and without is contested space. This conference seeks to explore the many and varied "memories of Ireland" that constitute the current discourse about the past and future of Ireland. The conference committee is interested in a broad selection of submissions pertaining to all aspects of this question. The papers should be 20 minutes long. The conference committee especially welcomes panel proposals. All proposals should be submitted no later than June 15th, 2005. Please submit proposals on the conference theme or any other aspect of Irish Studies of up to 500 words along with a short (2 page) scholarly biography to the Conference Committee, care of Terrie McCoy. Email proposals should use only Microsoft Word attachments or include the abstract and CV in the main body of the email text. Special conference highlights: Christine Kinealy, author of "A Death-Dealing Famine: The Great Hunger in Ireland" and "A New History of Ireland", will be speaking on Memory and Commemoration in Ireland. Also planned is a concert by 7 time all-Ireland button-accordion champion John Whelan, and an optional bus trip into New York City to visit the Famine Memorial. The Irish American Cultural Institute will be a partner with us in presenting the conference.

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Western Representative Report (via Charlotte Headrick):

The 21st annual meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies/West will be held at Oregon State University (Corvallis, Oregon), October 14-16, 2005. The conference theme is "Women of Some Importance," and featured events include a production of Elizabeth Kuti's Treehouses. Proposals (250 words) for 15 minute presentations on any aspect of Irish Studies are invited. Proposals should be sent (by hard copy or email) to conference chair Charlotte Headrick, University Theatre, Withycombe Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis OR 97331

****Discipline Representative Reports:

Literature Representative Report (José Lanthers):

A. ACIS sessions at MLA-Philadelphia, 2004.

1. Irish Writing and the Public Sphere. Presider: John Harrington. Presenters: Lucy McDiarmid, Mary Ann Ryan, Andrew Kincaid.

2. Ourselves Alone? Irish Geographies of Difference. Presider: José Lanthers. Presenters: Kathryn Conrad, Gloria Farler, Richard Haslam.

Both sessions were lively and well attended.

ACIS sessions submitted for MLA-Washington, DC, 2005:

1. Ireland and the Contemporary City. Presider: Christopher Berchild. Presenters: Christopher Berchild, Scott Boltwood, Kelly McGovern.

2. Archival and Electronic Irish Studies. Presider: Margaret Kelleher. Presenters: Margaret Kelleher & Philip O'Leary, Claire Cowart, Thomas O'Grady.

B. ACIS/IJJF Party at 2004 MLA.

Collaboration with Margot Norris has been a pleasure, and arranging for the suite and party goods was relatively unproblematic. We advertised the party (too?) well and everybody came, so the room was very crowded, but everyone had a good time.

C. Robert Rhodes Book Prize Committee (Lanthers, Houston, Quinlan). We received seven books, four of which were on James Joyce. Information on how, when, and to whom to submit books, and which books are appropriate for submission, should perhaps be stated more clearly on the website.