

ACIS Executive Committee Meeting  
Sheraton Board Room, St. Louis, MO  
20 April 2006

Present: Eamonn Wall, Racheal Lynch, Joan FitzPatrick Dean, Jose Lanteris, Mary-Ann Ryan, John Harrington, Thomas Idhe, Bill Mulligan (ex officio), James Rogers, Tim McMahon, David Gleeson, Helen Lojek, Kristine Byron, Matthew Jockers

The meeting was called to order at 12:45PM

Wall opened the meeting with heart-felt greetings and thanks to the executive and expressed his honor in hosting this year's meeting. He thanked Thomas Idhe in advance for hosting next year's meeting at CUNY.

He continued with a brief summary of last year's executive meeting at Notre Dame with reference to the priorities and initiatives developed at that meeting.

Important issues identified at last year's meeting included matters pertaining to our membership records, member recruitment, and the state of the budget. Wall noted that the specifics of how each of these items was dealt with would be in evidence as the meeting continued and the various members of the executive made their reports.

I.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mulligan to approve last year's minutes submitted by then Secretary Katie Conrad. Lennon seconded the motion and a call for the vote resulted in unanimous approval.

II.

President's Report:

Wall called for a report from John Harrington on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc membership committee, which Harrington chaired. The recommendations were as follows:

1. ACIS should consider a more formal affiliation with journal(s) and scholarly organizations. Such affiliation the committee felt was necessary in order to attract members and that membership in ACIS should include subscription to a publication beyond the existing ILS subscription.
2. ACIS should be associated with other organizations, something that could be managed by the disciplinary representatives who could make suggestions to the executive committee.
3. ACIS should explore the question of who is responsible for enforcing the ACIS policy of requiring conference presenters to be members in good standing of ACIS. Significant discussion followed on this subject especially related to last year's meeting in Notre Dame where the policy was not enforced and the measures in place this year.

- a. Mulligan suggested the possibility of having two ways of registering (as an existing member or with a membership included).
- b. Rogers pointed out that only those who are presenting should be compelled to become members.
- c. Jockers volunteered to create a delinquency list.
- d. Wall and Jockers noted that conference guests (invitees) and volunteers should not be compelled to become members to register for the conference.
- e. Clarification was made that it is in fact a policy of the ACIS that conference presenters be members in good standing.
- f. Wall pointed out and others agreed that it is not reasonable to expect the host to enforce the membership policy.
- g. Jockers and Byron suggested that delinquent members appearing and presenting at conferences could be billed by invoice through the treasurer's office.
- h. Jockers and Byron suggested that we might consider making it a condition of hosting a conference that as soon as the list of accepted presenters was confirmed the list be forwarded to the ACIS executive so that it could be crosschecked against the active member database.

Motion: Jockers made a motion to require regional and national hosts to provide the list of presenters to the executive at least one month in advance of the conference.

Motion was seconded by Helen Lojek.

The vote resulted in unanimous approval.

4. ACIS should create and distribute a Brochure.

Motion: Jockers made a motion to employ a graphic designer to develop a brochure and a logo that could be used in all ACIS branding.

David Gleeson Seconded the Motion.

Discussion: discussion ensued regarding whether there was ample funding within the budget and Byron noted that there was.

Result: The vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Lanters and Ryan agreed to take the lead on this project and will report back to the executive on or before September 15, 2006.

5. ACIS should do more to publicize the book prizes. Harrington recommended that no action was required on this front in terms of membership and recruitment.
6. ACIS should consider fostering relationships with graduate student organizations.

Jockers suggested that we consider leveraging the existing email list of ACIS members in order to better publicize ACIS information. The executive agreed that this is a hitherto untapped resource that we should employ in a judicious manner.

The matter of offering travel grants to grad students was brought to the table. This led to a general discussion of how best to deploy the existing ACIS surplus. This discussion was tabled for the budget discussion to follow with the treasurer's report.

7. Recruitment. Rogers suggested that disciplinary representative should be charged with organizing a panel at each conference. Rogers also felt that disciplinary and regional reps should have the flexibility to offer a registration fee waiver to aid in bringing new members into the organization. The executive agreed that the best way to deal with recruitment would be to make the recruitment committee consist of the disciplinary reps who are presumably in the best position to recruit colleagues from their fields.

Wall called for a report from Joan Dean on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc mini grant committee, which Dean chaired. The recommendations were as follows:

1. The main purpose of the grants is to promote the ACIS and to create and sustain new members. The committee recommends that the ACIS move to a formal, one page request form.
2. The committee recommends that the grants be limited to support of only the following: Speakers (including travel costs) for Irish Studies experts, Exhibitions (including art, archives, films, performances), financial support for grad students presenting in Irish Studies (usually some portion/match of conference registration, travel, housing), subvention of publication for conference packets exhibitions, including performances, readings, screenings, and art or archival exhibitions.
3. The committee recommends that the money should not be granted for support of independent research, nor should the money be applied to cover the costs of publicity, computer/technology fees, regional conferences, phone bills, faxes, or publications. The grant must be applied to the direct advancement of the goals of the ACIS.
4. The committee recommended that the grant cap be raised to \$1500.00.
5. The committee recommended that anyone receiving a grant be required to announce his or her event on the ACIS web site.
6. The committee recommended that proposals should come in well in advance of the event for which funding is being sought.
7. The committee recommended that each proposal include a statement about their organization and how they will promote ACIS.
8. The committee recommended that grant recipients be required to acknowledge the sponsorship of ACIS in their promotional materials and that they include the ACIS brochure in their materials. Grant recipients will be further

encouraged, but not required, to include the ACIS logo in their promotional materials.

9. The committee recommended that the nomenclature be changed from "mini-grants" to simply, "grants."

Jockers made a motion to accept the recommendations as outlined.  
Rogers seconded the motion

Discussion followed on a number of points.

The vote resulted in unanimous approval of the committee's recommendations.

Wall called for a report from John Harrington on the status of the ACIS history.

Harrington noted that the executive had voted previously in support of James MacKillop's proposal for writing an ACIS history. Some discussion followed in which the details of the project were enumerated and the matter of MacKillop's subsequent request for an additional \$2000.00 was brought to the table.

Wall submitted a motion to support the request for additional funding. Jockers seconded the motion. The vote resulted in no support for the proposal for additional funding. 0 in favor, 0 abstaining, Unanimous against.

Wall called for a report from John Harrington on the status of the past president's meeting.

Harrington reported that seven past presidents would meet for lunch on Friday and bring forward any important information at the general business meeting.

### III.

#### Vice Presidents Report

##### 1. Elections:

- a. Jose Lanter reported that we are in an election year and that she would soon be forming a nominations committee (in June).
- b. The official call for nominations will be issued in the fall newsletter.
- c. The Ballot will be available in January
- d. The voting deadline will be in February
- e. The results will be made public in March
- f. Lanter implored the committee to begin thinking about worthy nominees
- g. The matter of voting methods was brought to the table and it was pointed out that last year's problems with the electronic voting could be attributed to poor records and were not a function of the electronic forum. A recommendation was made to continue the practice of electronic voting in the coming election with the same options available to members wishing to submit their vote by paper ballot.

Lanters moved that we continue to employ the electronic voting system in the coming election.

Lennon seconded the motion.

Discussion followed about the importance of getting valid email addresses and the requirement that everything be explained in the fall newsletter and that we set a deadline for members wishing to receive a paper ballot.

The vote in favor of continuing with electronic voting was unanimous.

Jockers made a motion that we utilize electronic mail as a means of reminding members to vote.

Ihde submitted a friendly amendment to the motion suggesting that Email reminders be sent to members who had not yet voted seven days in advance of the deadline and then again one day before the deadline.

The vote in favor of using email reminders was unanimous.

## 2. Book Prizes

Lanters reported on the difficulties of reviewing books within the time frame available to allow winners to be notified in advance of the National Conference. Lanters then reported to the Committee the winners of this year's prizes.

It was noted that the contest is open to all authors and not simply members of the ACIS.

## 3. Future Conference Sites

Next year's conference will be hosted by CUNY  
2008 is still pending  
2009 Back to Ireland—consider both Cork and Galway as possible hosts  
2010 Perhaps should be hosted somewhere in the western region.

## IV.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was circulated and read by the executive committee. The business of separating the line item for contributions and grants was discussed and thus separated.

A general discussion of the year's expenditures ensued.

Mulligan made a motion to increase the amount of money available for the ACIS grants to \$10,000 and that the amount available for contributions be set at \$2000.00.

Dean seconded the motion.

The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Byron made a motion to increase the VP's budget to \$1000.00 and Mulligan offered a friendly amendment to the motion to note that the increase was specifically for covering the costs associated with the forthcoming election.

The vote in favor of the amended motion was unanimous.

Mulligan made a motion to increase the money available to regional for support of regional conferences to \$1500.00 per region.

Lojek seconded the motion.

The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Dean made a motion to increase the funding available for the national meeting to \$4000.00.

Lojek seconded the motion.

Discussion followed regarding the comparatively low cost of ACIS membership and regarding the increased need for conference hosts to provide costly technical support. The committee also noted that raising the amount available to hosts might encourage less well-heeled institutions to come forward as hosts.

The vote in favor of increasing the amount available to hosts resulted in one abstention (Ihde) and 13 in favor.

The matter of supporting graduate students was brought to the table and a committee to investigate the possibility of offering support for graduate research was formed and will be chaired by Tim McMahan.

Byron then brought to the table the International treasurer's suggestion that we reconsider the existing dues structure.

Jockers made a motion to offer an incentive to members opting for the three-year membership in the form of a five-dollar per year discount off the regular one-year membership.

The motion was then withdrawn in favor of a wider discussion of membership dues.

Lojek then moved to abolish joint memberships and offer a five dollar per year discount to members renewing for three years and that an equivalent discount (in Euros) be given to international members.

Gleeson seconded the motion

The vote resulted in 1 vote opposed (Mulligan) and 13 in favor, no abstentions.  
Mulligan moved to approve the revised budget

McMahon seconded the motion

The vote in favor of amending the budget was unanimous.

## V.

### Secretary's Report:

The Secretary/Database Administrator/Web designer reported on the health of the active membership 738 members in good standing and 30 delinquent members presenting at this conference. Several changes to the ACIS web site were noted including the addition of areas on the site for regional conferences to publish regional specific information. The western region has already posted the western regional history compiled by Helen Lojek.

## VI.

### Other Business

The proposal from David Gardiner and Creighton University for publication of an ACIS annual was discussed and tabled for further discussion among the exec via the Executive committee's email list. The executive was in agreement that before it could consider the Creighton proposal it would first have to establish what the organization really wants in terms of a publication. Wall agreed to submit to the executive (in two to three weeks) a draft statement articulating the various functions and features such a publication might have.

## VII.

### Regional and Disciplinary Reports

As time was slipping away, the regional and disciplinary representatives hastily reported on their regions. Noteworthy information included the following:

1. The next Southern meeting will be hosted at Winthrop University.
2. The western regional in conjunction with the Western Institute of Irish Studies will publish an online journal of papers presented at the ACIS west in Corvallis.
3. The ACIS west has posted its history to the ACIS web site.
4. ACIS will have two literature panels at the MLA and will co sponsor a party with the James Joyce and Virginia Woolf Societies.
5. ACIS History will host a party at the AHA meeting.
6. ACIS history rep McMahon noted that Blackwell Press is now publishing an online journal, "History Compass" and encourages ACIS members to consider submission of Irish topics.

## VIII.

### Concluding Business

Wall offered his thanks to Bill Mulligan who has resigned as Newsletter Editor in what he notes is in the best interests of the ACIS. Mulligan noted that his university lacks the infrastructure to allow him to produce the newsletter in a timely and efficient manner.

Wall motioned that the meeting adjourn

Ryan seconded the motion

The vote in favor of adjournment was unanimous.

The meeting ended at 3:50PM