

ACIS Executive Meeting  
10 June 2009  
National University of Ireland, Galway  
11:30 AM

Greetings and Announcement

President Lanters called the meeting to order at 11:33AM. She thanked everyone for attending. She noted that a number of members of the Executive were unable to attend and read their regrets.

I. Approval of Minutes: Executive Committee Meeting, April 17, 2008

Eammon Wall moved to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded by Kate Costello Sullivan and it passed unanimously.

II. President's Report: José Lanters

A. New Officers and Webmaster

President Lanters welcomed two new members of the executive: Nick Wolf as Treasurer and Michael de Nie as Secretary. She also noted that the ACIS website will no longer be maintained by the Secretary but rather by a professional webmaster, Phillip Barron, who will report to the Secretary.

B. Newsletter editor

Tyler Farrell has stepped down as Editor of the newsletter. The new editor will be Jill Brady Hampton.

C. ACIS Grants and Scholarships

President Lanters announced that four grants were awarded in 2007-2008. None were awarded in 2008-2009 because no applications were received. Brief discussion ensued and it was agreed that the President should encourage submissions for next year at the general meeting.

Joan Dean inquired how much was spent on grants and scholarships in 2007-2008. Lanters replied that \$6750 of the \$8000 budgeted was disbursed. The maximum award was \$1500.

Lanters noted that in 2007-2008 ACIS donated \$1000 each to the National Library of Ireland and the Linen Hall Library in recognition of their invaluable services to Irish Studies. She asked if the committee would like to continue this payment and there was unanimous consensus in favor.

#### D. Past Presidents' Meeting

Lanters noted that the past presidents' meeting would be held on 13 June at 12:30pm.

Wall moved to accept the President's report. Farrell seconded and the vote in favor was unanimous.

### II Vice President's Report: Jim Rogers

#### A. Book Prizes

Rogers distributed multiple-page handouts containing the book prize citations. Confusion reigned for approximately 108 seconds until all attendees had the proper number of pages. Rogers noted that all the prizes received a considerable number of entries, and that the Adele Dalsimer Prize in particular had seventeen entries, compared to only two in the previous year. Rogers also noted that the Gaeilge award received eleven submissions in its inaugural year.

Rogers requested that the prize committee chairs read the citations at the general meeting. He offered heartfelt thanks to all members of the prize committees and noted that if submissions continue at this rate the Executive may have to consider some ways to reduce the workload for book prize committee members in the future. He noted that Tim White has suggested placing the James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize on a rota, alternating between books in the social sciences and history. Rogers welcomed any additional ideas.

Dean suggested that in the future ACIS might organize a lunch for the winners and/or reimburse prize winners' registration fees. She also suggested that we might offer separate prizes for books in the social sciences and history.

Rogers suggested producing a display with the names and book covers of the previous year's winners for each annual meeting.

#### B. Future Conference Sites

2010 State College, PA. Hosted by Tramble Turner of Penn State University, Abington

2011 Rogers is in discussion with members of the Southern Regional to host a conference in Atlanta, GA. Rogers also noted that Mary Trotter of the University of Wisconsin has expressed strong interest in holding the national meeting in Madison in 2011.

Rogers noted that Boston College has been informed that they would have “right of first refusal” in regard to hosting the 2012 conference and that Notre Dame has expressed strong interest in hosting the 2016 conference.

### C. Elections

Rogers congratulated and thanked everyone who participated as a nominator or candidate. He noted that the electronic voting system worked quite well and that one member requested a paper ballot.

He noted that the present membership has fallen below 1000 and that the executive will need to consider methods to grow the membership and encourage lapsed members to renew.

Joan Dean made a motion that the organization take out an ad in the last annual issue of the Irish Literary Supplement reminding members to pay their dues. Wall seconded and the motion was carried unanimously. Tyler Farrell suggested that a notice also be placed in the fall newsletter.

Marti Lee moved to accept the Vice President’s report. Michael de Nie seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

### IV Treasurer’s Report: Nicholas Wolf

Wolf was unable to attend the meeting because of a canceled flight. The Executive considered and passed the proposed budget via email exchanges subsequent to the meeting.

### V. Secretary’s Report: Michael de Nie

De Nie read the report prepared by the outgoing Secretary Matthew Jockers.

-We have 669 paid members for 2009. The previous year at this time we had 700. The number of paid members is likely to gain as members renew in order to present their papers at the conference.

-The online election had 28.4% turnout, compared to 22% in 2005 and 37% in 2007.

-Jockers responded to 309 messages from ACIS members and mailing list clients in the year since the last meeting, an average of 6 messages per week.

-Jockers added a new PayPal feature for purchase of the mailing list to the website.

-Jockers created and uploaded sixteen instructional videos to the Executive area of the website to assist the incoming Executive and the new webmaster.

-Jockers updated the online mailing list tool to better prepare label date for ACIS mailings and the mailing list

-Jockers updated the online election code to make future elections easier to facilitate

-Jockers identified and hired a new webmaster/database administrator (Phillip Barron) for 2009

-Jockers completed work associated with getting the new webmaster trained and ready to assume full responsibility for the site and membership database.

Kathleen Heininge moved to accept the Secretary's report. Dean seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

#### VI Membership and Recruitment Committee Report: Sean Farrell

Sean Farrell was unable to attend and requested that the report be discussed at the next Executive meeting.

Jim Rogers noted that the current trajectory is worrisome and that some longstanding ACIS members were not renewing. A wide-ranging discussion on strategies to improve recruitment and retention ensued. Among the suggestions forwarded were the following:

- personal invitations to bring people in
- regularly updating the member database to compensate for changes of address
- adding panels on pedagogy and/or administrative workshops to the annual conference
- adding a workshop on teaching Irish Studies to undergraduates to the annual conference
- sending regional conference announcements to the full ACIS mailing list
- expanding the brief of the discipline and regional representatives and having them organize a panel at each annual conference

#### VII Membership and Conference Presentations

All paper presenters at ACIS conferences are required to be members, yet many are not. The committee discussed strategies to correct this problem.

The Executive decided that a "membership status" line should be added to conference registration forms (and this step added to the regional conference guidelines drafted by Jim Rogers) and that in the future all conference organizing committees should forward their proposed participant list to the ACIS Secretary so that he/she could check it against the

member database. The Secretary will inform organizers of lapsed or nonmembers. Any further action will be the responsibility of the conference organizers.

#### VIII Non-US Membership and International Treasurer

President Lanter raised two issues for discussion. First, there is a discrepancy between members paying in dollars and those paying in Euros. Second, does the organization still require an International Treasurer (currently Daire Keogh) with the new PayPal system on the ACIS website?

Rogers moved to thank Keogh for his service and leave the position vacant and rely on the PayPal feature of the website for international members. Wall seconded the motion. In the discussion that followed members indicated that they were unsure how to maintain the two-tiered dues system with PayPal. It was noted that the costs for mailing the ILS and newsletter overseas were considerable and that the executive should consult with Bob Lowery and the newsletter editor before making any changes to the international members' dues system.

The motion was tabled and Rogers indicated that the new executive would revisit this issue in the near future.

#### IX Regional Representatives Report

Rachael Sealy Lynch distributed a report on the New England conference at Boston University. The 2009 conference will be held at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Kate Costello Sullivan reported on the Mid-Atlantic conference at Queen's Community College. The 2009 meeting will be held at Monmouth College and the 2010 at Manhattan College.

Marti Lee reported on the Southern conference at UT-Chattanooga. The next conference will be held at Winthrop University.

Kathy Heining reported on the Western Conference at the University of New Mexico Albuquerque. The next conference will be held in Santa Clara, CA.

Jim Rogers reported on the Midwest conference at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul, MN. The next meeting will be held at Illinois State University, Carbondale.

#### X. Discipline Representatives Report

Ellen Cromwell reported that ACIS sponsored two panels and a reception at the 2008 MLA in San Francisco and will sponsor two panels at the 2009 MLA in Philadelphia.

The other discipline representatives were absent or had nothing to report.

#### XI Agenda for General Business Meeting

Lanters passed out the agenda for the GBM. Rogers suggested that item VI, Membership and Recruitment Report, be dropped from the agenda as it was not yet ready. Dean made a motion to do so, Wall seconded, and the revised agenda was approved.

#### New Business

Lanters raised the issue of compensation for the ACIS Secretary and Treasurer as non-elected officials, which had been discussed at the previous Executive meeting and in email exchanges. Discussion ensued as to the best method of providing compensation.

Joan Dean moved that ACIS provide \$1500 each annually for the Secretary and Treasurer to reimburse them for travel to ACIS meetings because their attendance at national meetings is mandatory. Wall seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued as to whether or not this motion required the consent of the members present at the GBM. It was agreed that the question should be put the membership.

Kate Costello Sullivan moved that the issue of compensation for the ACIS Secretary and Treasurer be added to the agenda of the GBM. Rogers seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Lee then moved to adjourn and de Nie seconded; all were in favor and the meeting concluded at 1:14pm.