

ACIS 2009
ACIS General Business Meeting
NUI Galway, O'Flaherty Theatre
11 June 2009
1:00 PM

Greetings and Announcements:

President Laners called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM. She offered thanks to the ACIS Executive and Book Prize Committees for their hard work and for sponsoring panels and receptions at the MLA and AHA meetings. She also expressed our gratitude to Bob Lowery for his continued service as editor of the Irish Literary Supplement.

I. Approval of Minutes: ACIS General Business Meeting, Radisson Quad Cities, 18 April 2008

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

II. President's Report: José Laners

A. ACIS Grants and Sponsorships: Laners reported that no awards had been made this year because no applications were received. She encouraged members to make use of these grants if they have appropriate conferences or other suitable projects. She informed the members of the Executive Committee's decision to continue the \$1000 annual gift to the National Library of Ireland and Linen Hall Library.

B. New Officers and Webmaster: Laners announced that Nicholas Wolf and Michael de Nie have joined the executive as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. She noted that the ACIS website will now be maintained by a professional Webmaster, Phillip Barron.

Laners thanked the outgoing Treasurer and Secretary, Kristi Byron and Matthew Jockers, and noted that the Executive have purchased thank you gifts for them from Kilkenny Design.

C. Newsletter Editor: Laners announced that Tyler Farrell is stepping down as Secretary and will be succeeded by Jill Brady Hampton.

D. Past Presidents' Meeting: Laners announced that the past presidents will lunch on 12 June at 12:30 PM.

III. Vice President's Report: Jim Rogers

A. Book Prizes : Rogers noted with satisfaction the very large number of submissions for this year's prizes. Chairs of the respective committees read the prize citations.

B. Future Conference Sites: Rogers announced that the 2010 conference will be held in State College, PA and hosted by Tramble Turner. The Executive is considering two offers to host the 2011 conference.

IV Treasurer's Report

Nicholas Wolf was unable to attend the meeting because of a flight delays. President Lanter noted that due to Wolf's absence the Executive had not yet been able to approve the budget. She then read his report, which noted that overall spending was well below the budgeted amount but that the Executive may wish to closely consider our finances in the future as the currently low membership levels may impact our spending abilities. The report recommended finding new ways to finance the Durkan prize, as the new PayPal system does not permit members to add donations for the prize to their overall membership cost. The report also recommended shifting the annual fiscal reports to coincide with the calendar year.

Questions from the floor were entertained. James S. Donnelly, Jr. queried the current membership numbers. He noted the discrepancy between that number (659) and the one stated on the ACIS website (1500) and recommended that the website be corrected. Donnelly then asked if the recent downturn in the stock market had negatively affected our finances. The members of the Executive Committee present were unsure and agreed to ask the Treasurer when he arrived.

Tram Turner moved to approve the proposed budget after it was approved by the Executive Committee. Donnelly seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

V Secretary's Report: Matthew Jockers/Michael de Nie

Michael de Nie read Matthew Jockers report.

- 669 paid members for 2009. The previous year at this time we had 700.
- 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

VI Support for ACIS Officers

President Lanters noted that in the previous year the Executive had begun exploring ways to compensate the Treasurer and Secretary, who bear the largest burden of running the organization, and to attract younger members to volunteer for these positions. She noted that the Executive had unanimously passed a motion 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. This same motion was then introduced to the general meeting by Lanters and seconded by Sean Farrell.

In the discussion that followed it was noted that the Secretary and Treasurer are on the front line of the organization, responding to frequent queries from members and vendors. Donnelly proposed a friendly amendment that the travel reimbursement only be allocated when no or insufficient monies were available from the officer's home institution. Lanters responded that this was the spirit of the motion. Several members spoke in opposition to the amendment, which was then withdrawn. The original motion then passed with one abstention.

New Business

Eammon Wall proposed a motion of thanks to NUI Galway, the Centre for Irish Studies, its director Louis de Paor and its staff for hosting the conference: "Thank you for your warm welcome, hard work, and inspired organization." The members approved the motion, followed by sustained applause. Lanters distributed gifts of thanks to the organizers.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM.