

ACIS Executive Meeting
7 May 2010
State College, PA

Greetings and Announcement

President Rogers called the meeting to order at 12:07PM. He thanked everyone for attending.

I. Approval of Minutes: Executive Committee Meeting, 10 June 2009

Sean Farrell moved to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded by Karen Steele and passed unanimously.

II. President's Report: Jim Rogers

A. General Comments

President Rogers noted with satisfaction the number of first-time attendees at the conference and the high quality of the presentations.

B. Newsletter and other Publications

The ACIS Newsletter will become a web-only publication beginning with the next issue. He also noted that the executive may wish to consider forming a sub-committee to explore the future of all ACIS publications.

C. ACIS Grants, contributions, hosting

All ACIS grants have been suspended for the foreseeable future due to the organization's budget situation.

D. Report on Past Presidents' meeting: 6 May

President Rogers noted that he had a genial and productive lunch with seven former presidents of ACIS.

E. "Standing" Panel Assignments

It was agreed that the Murphy Prize panel went very well this year and should be repeated next year. President Rogers encouraged the discipline and graduate representatives to organize panels next year.

F. International Treasurer

Confusion over the exact status of the international treasurer was resolved. The position will continue.

III. Vice President's Report: Sean Farrell

A. Book Prizes

Farrell thanked all those who chaired or served on the book committees and read the list of winners. There was discussion regarding moving the submission deadline to allow committee members more time to read the books.

B. Future Conference Sites

2011 Madison, WI. Hosted by Mary Trotter and James S. Donnelly, Jr.
2012 New Orleans, LA. Hosted by Laura Kelly. Cool t-shirts are expected.

C. Pending Elections

Elections will be held in the next year and Farrell asked all present to nominate candidates.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Nicholas Wolf

A. Current Status of ACIS Finances

- Despite the rough economic climate of the past two years, ACIS's overall financial picture has remained strong. Our assets on hand have remained virtually unchanged thanks to conservative, solid money-market investing of past income by previous executives. The interest earned by ACIS on its accounts has certainly declined in the past year. On the other hand, because of the risk-free investments made, we have not lost money.
- ACIS finances have remained strong in large part because of the generosity of our members, who have not only remained active in the organization, but also expressed their long term support for ACIS initiatives. Approximately one half of all ACIS members are on multi-year memberships and will remain vital contributors to the organization through 2013 and beyond.

B. Growing ACIS support for Irish Studies in Recent Years

- Since 2007, ACIS has increased its support for the annual conference by 100% and its regional conference support by 50%. It has continued to provide underlying support for the Durkan and Adele Dalsimer Prizes, and provided funds through its grant program. ACIS offers funds to help host MLA and AHA receptions, including one of each in the past two years. In the past, it has also made significant contributions of thousands of dollars to Ireland's National Library and Linen Hall Library.
- This support for conferences has been particularly vital given the current financial climate and the extraordinary cutbacks in support for academic meetings that has become commonplace among universities across the country.
- Despite this steady (and in some cases, increasing) financial support for Irish Studies in the past several years, ACIS has not seen a dues increase. Moreover, its dues are incredibly low in comparison to comparable organizations with a national scope (MLA, for example, ranges from about \$50 to \$100 for non-students; AHA runs \$75 to \$100).

C. Dues Increase

- In order to sustain this ongoing (and in the case of conference support, increasing) funding for Irish Studies in North America and to continue the mission of ACIS in the long term, the executive has recommended increasing the rate for full-time, non-student members to \$40 per year, and \$100 for three-year memberships. Student rates will continue at \$15. Overseas membership will be set at the same rate as U.S. members.
- This modest rate will keep ACIS well below the costs of comparable institutions, even as it enables the organization to continue its support for key initiatives. Without this

dues increase, ACIS will not be able to meet its financial goals on its current membership base.

D. Cost Savings

- There is also a strong need for ACIS to follow the lead of many national organizations at present with regard to publication costs. This means a shift from extraordinarily expensive endeavors like first-class mailed newsletters to online and web-based newsletter publications. The simple ability to publish the ACIS newsletter online will save between \$1500 and \$2000 per year—equivalent to the funding provided for regional conference. This practice follows those in most major national organizations.
- Finally, the executive has recommended ending the grants program. No applications have been made for this funding in recent years, and the organization is not in a place—given its membership size and low dues rates—to continue the immense sums budgeted for this item.

V. Secretary's Report: Michael de Nie

We have 683 paid members, the previous year at this time we had 659, the year before 700.

The Secretary responded to 126 messages from ACIS members and mailing list clients in the year since the last meeting. There were 35 announcements and 19 call for papers posted on the ACIS website since the last meeting.

VI. Membership and Recruitment Committee Report: Sean Farrell

Efforts continue to recruit new members.

VII. Regional Representatives Reports

Kendall Reid reported on the Western Region. The 25th annual meeting of ACIS-West, with the theme "Ireland and its Influences," was held in Los Gatos, CA, October 16-18, 2009. The hosts Timothy J. O'Keefe and James P. Walsh brought together experience with conference planning from the first ACIS-West conference in 1985 up to the 2002 conference at Santa Clara University. The conference opened Friday night at C. B. Hannegan's pub with former ACIS-West president Robert Tracy reviewing the organization's 25 year of accomplishment, followed by Consul General for the Western United States, Gerry Staunton's plenary address—an assessment of Ireland's recent economic history. Saturday night's entertainment was several scenes from Gemma Whelan's new screenplay "the Jealous Wall."

"(Re)Defining Irish-ness in the Contemporary/Post-Modern," the 26th annual meeting of ACIS-West will be held at Boise State University, October 1-3, 2010 with Jodi Chilson as the host. Keynote Speaker will be Professor Christopher Murray, Emeritus Professor of Drama and Theatre History, School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin. Professor Murray's address is titled, "'The New Thing That Has Happened, or the Old Thing That Has Happened Again': Beckett and the Irish sensibility." Trevor Joyce's poetry reading will be another highlight of the conference. Trevor Joyce was the Judith E. Wilson Visiting Poetry Fellow at Cambridge University for 2009/10.

Kate Costello Sullivan reported on the Mid-Atlantic Region. The 2009 Mid-Atlantic Regional conference took place at Monmouth University on 9/18-19, 2009 in West Long Branch, NJ. The topic was "Ireland by Sea." It was attended by roughly 25 people.

The coming year's conference will be hosted by Drew University in Madison, NJ (under Christine Kinneally and Bill Rogers), and the topic is "Re-viewing [sic] Ireland. Irish culture in words, music and images'. It is slated for 10/1-2.

The region also activated a listserv through Yahoo and updated the region's page on the site.

Mary Burke reported on the New England Region.

Tim McMahon reported on the Midwest Region

VIII. Discipline Representatives Report

Ryan Dye, the History Representative, noted that there will not be an ACIS panel or reception at the AHA this year. He apologized for forgetting to organize these events. He noted with satisfaction the impressive number of excellent History presentations at this year's conference.

More work can be done to encourage Medievalists and Colonial Americanists to present at ACIS.

Karen Steele, the Literature Representative, noted that she organized two panels at the 2010 MLA meeting. Next year the ACIS will only have one guaranteed slot, with the opportunity to submit two additional panels for consideration. Steele was pleased with the quality and number of proposals she received.

Brigitte French, the Social Sciences Representative, noted that she organized a panel for this year's meeting and expressed a desire to attract members of more social science disciplines to future conferences and to find ways to reach out to other professional organizations. She welcomed suggestions.

The remaining discipline representatives had nothing to report.

IX. Agenda for General Business Meeting, 11 June 2010

The executive committee approved the agenda for the general business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07pm.