

## **2006 Board Meeting**

### **North American Patristics Society Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza 25 May 2006**

Attending: Maureen Tilley (Pres), David Hunter (VPres), Clayton Jefford (Sec/Treas), Vasiliki Limberis (MatL), Lewis Ayres (MatL), Virginia Burrus (MatL), Philip Rousseau (Ed), James Goehring (recent past Pres), Andrew Jacobs (NomComm), Debbie Cowen and Mike Kornelson (event coordinators)

Absent: Richard Valantasis (MatL), David Brakke (Ed)

Maureen Tilley called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

1. The President welcomed the new Members-at-Large (Ayres/Burrus).
2. The Board approved the minutes from the June 2005 meeting (held at Loyola University Chicago) without correction.
3. Report of Summit (SMI) Representatives (Cowen/Kornelson)

[written report on file in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer]

Revenue for the annual meeting was ahead of pace by almost \$3000 at the time of the Board meeting. There were higher charges for food, beverages, and postage than had been anticipated. SMI had projected there to be 200 people present at the meeting, though by Thursday morning there were already 222 registered. Perhaps a quarter of these were students for whom registration was cheaper. All problems with making arrangements for participants had been resolved with little difficulty to date.

4. Report of Officers

- a. Vice-President (Hunter)

The 2006 annual meeting was scheduled to feature 159 papers and responses together with two book panels. Several preplanned sessions are included, a newly forming trend for the meeting. The paper categories were well balanced.

Board members questioned whether NAPS should not attempt to bring in a wider variety of participants from outside the traditional boundaries of the Society, creating sections on Gnosticism and pre-Nicaea Christianity for example, somewhat along the model of the AAR/SBL. Suggestions were raised concerning whether the Society should hold a panel on "What is patristics?" at its 2008 annual meeting.

Another question was raised as to whether certain publishers should receive free registration and book displays at the annual meeting. After some discussion, the Board agreed that such practices should be brought to an end.

A motion to accept the report of the Vice-President was offered (Burrus), seconded (Ayres) and approved.

b. Secretary-Treasurer (Jefford)

[written report on file in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer]

As directed by the Board at the 2005 meeting (see first motion of Minutes 2005 3.a.), Jefford requested that The Johns Hopkins University Press (JHUP) provide a space for the listing of email addresses and a box to 'opt out' on all NAPS membership renewal forms, as well as permission for NAPS officers to have full access to such a list of email addresses for the purpose of Society communication. The JHUP agreed to this change on all new and renewal membership forms beginning in 2006.

As per discussion during the 2005 annual meeting, JHUP was contacted about a reduced membership rate for retired NAPS members. It was agreed that such members would pay a reduced annual fee of \$35.

As directed by the Society at the 2005 annual business meeting, amended Article 2 Section 4 of the NAPS By-Laws was filed with the State of Kentucky and posted on the NAPS website ([www.patristics.org](http://www.patristics.org)).

On rare occasion various publishers wish to have special listings placed on the NAPS website. The question of how this situation should be addressed was discussed. A recommendation was made that a publisher's announcement page should be maintained on the website with the clear notification that all postings were paid endorsements and not necessarily supported by the Society. Tilley appointed a sub-committee of Jefford, Rousseau, and Burrus to continue conversation on the issue.

The spring issue of the *Patristics* newsletter was not published and distributed due to lack of available materials.

The NAPS Membership Directory will be published again in the fall of 2006.

Membership for the Society stood at 875 total members at the end of April 2006 (618 regular members; 45 emeritus members; 211 student members), based upon the number of NAPS members who had paid their annual dues to date. Total Society membership at the end of 2005 was 1453 members, which exceeded the previous year's enrollment figures by roughly 5 percent.

A question was raised as to the degree that additional international members should be encouraged to become regular participants at the annual meeting. This issue could certainly be encouraged at the 2007 Oxford meeting, placed on the NAPS website, or sent directly to international members.

The Society has recovered well from its brief financial setback of the previous year. The *JECs* continues to do well, while membership dues and investment earnings are gradually increasing. A comparison of annual meeting expenses also reveals that costs for the 2005 meeting returned to basically the same position as before the 2004 meeting. A question was raised concerning the level to which the Society wishes to subsidize each year's meeting. It was agreed that the current

financial position of the Society should be used to help enable members to attend the annual meeting with as little cost as possible.

A motion to accept the financial report of the Secretary-Treasurer was offered (Limberis), seconded (Hunter) and approved.

## 5. Committee Reports

### a. Nominating Committee (Jacobs)

The Committee recommended that the following persons be offered to the Society for Board positions during the forthcoming year: Paul Blowers of the Emmanuel School of Religion as Vice-President; Christopher Beeley of Yale Divinity School as Member-at-Large; and, Blake Leyerle of the University of Notre Dame as Member-at-Large.

It was brought to the attention of the Board that the office of Secretary-Treasurer will need to be filled by the time of the annual meeting in 2008.

A motion to accept these recommendations was offered (Ayres), seconded (Vasiliki) and approved.

### b. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (Hunter for Brakke)

[written report on file in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer]

The move of the *J ECS* to Bloomington, Indiana, has been successful. The *Journal* continues to do well. There are currently 15 members on the Advisory Board, with possible room for expansion. Two special issues have been planned. The JHUP is eager to develop special issues of the *Journal* and its articles into publishable volumes.

Brakke's report requested that Brian Daley and Patricia Cox Miller be reappointed as members of the Advisory Board. A motion to accept this request was offered (Ayres), seconded (Burrus) and approved.

A motion to accept the report was offered (Hunter), seconded (Jefford) and approved.

### c. Patristic Monograph Series (Rousseau)

[written report on file in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer]

Rousseau noted that the name of James Goehring should be added to those of Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Ron Heine, Michael Hollerich, and J. Rebecca Lyman, who have reached the end of their term as Editorial Board members for the PMS.

A motion to invite these five persons to consider reappointment to a new term on the Board was offered (Burrus), seconded (Ayres) and approved.

In consideration of the various persons who currently comprise the PMS Board, it seems worthwhile to consider the issue of whether more senior scholars should not be encouraged to become Board members in future days.

Rousseau observed that it was time to renegotiate a new contract with the CUAP for the publication of the Series. He was charged by the Board to lead discussions with the Press toward a new contract.

Publicity for the Series will include a future page in the *JECs*.

While ideas about possibly abandoning the Series or revamping it in one way or another have been passed around recently, Rousseau recommended that for the time being it should be kept as it is. This includes the continued receipt of royalties for the Society from future volumes sales.

The issue was raised with respect to whether the PMS should remain with the CUAP, since so few quality manuscripts are being received for publication and there seems to be little assistance in this process from the Press itself. A question arose about how it is possible for the Press to publish various books in the field of patristics without directing some of them to the Series for consideration.

A motion to accept the report was offered (Ayres), seconded (Burrus) and approved.

d. Best First Published Paper Award (Hunter)

As selected by a committee of reviewers, the winner of this year's award was Franklin T. Harkins, currently of Valparaiso University, for his article "Nuancing Augustine's Hermeneutical Jew: Allegory and Actual Jews in the Bishop's Sermons," published in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 36 (2005): 41-64.

6. Other Business

a. Distinguished Service Award (Hunter)

After some lengthy discussion by members via email, it has been decided that the Board will occasionally offer a "Distinguished Service Award" to members of the Society who have provided special service to NAPS in past years. This award will be given only occasionally and will be decided by the Board directly and not by a selected subcommittee. The criteria for nomination and receipt of the award will be determined as time moves along. No honorarium will be involved, though the recipient will receive a free lifetime membership in the Society.

b. Other

The Board expressed its appreciation both for the work of Tilley in her role as President and for the work of Hunter for his role as Vice-President.

7. Maureen Tilley adjourned the meeting at 12:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton N. Jefford

19 June 2006