

2008 Board Meeting

North American Patristics Society Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza 22 May 2008

Attending: David Hunter (Pres), Paul Blowers (VPres), Clayton Jefford (Sec/Treas), Maureen Tilley (recent past Pres), Lewis Ayres (MatL), Virginia Burrus (MatL), Blake Leyerle (MatL), Christopher Beeley (MatL), David Brakke (*J ECS* Ed), Andrew Jacobs (NomComm), Debbie Cowen (event coordinator)

Absent: Philip Rousseau (PMS Ed)

David Hunter called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

1. The President welcomed the new Members-at-Large (Beeley/Leyerle).
2. The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 2007 meeting (Oxford University). A motion to accept the minutes without correction was offered (Tilley), seconded (Leyerle) and approved.

In reference to Brakke's report on the need for a new contract with the Johns Hopkins University Press as indicated in the minutes, a question was raised about the status of the situation. Hunter indicated that he had a signed addendum to the contract as negotiated with the JHUP. Brakke has no current contract on file and is unsure where it is. Jefford said that he would look for the contract in the files of the Secretary. Hunter agreed to submit his addendum to Jefford to be placed in the Secretary's files so that a permanent record can be maintained there.

3. Report of Summit (SMI) Representative (Cowen)

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

Participation at the 2006 annual meeting totaled 248 people. Over 271 were registered for the 2008 meeting prior to the first session (the final registration count was 304 as of the business meeting on Friday 23 May). As with previous meetings, the NAPS underwrites the price of registration, the Thursday evening reception, and the Friday evening banquet. Hunter expressed appreciation to SMI and its staff for their work on the 2008 annual meeting.

4. Report of Officers

- a. Secretary-Treasurer (Jefford)

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

The numbers for Society membership have been holding steady during recent years with 863 total members reported at the end of 2007. Two issues of the *Patristics* newsletter were generated in September 2007 and March 2008 as

scheduled. It seems that hard copies of the newsletter must continue to circulate since many NAPS members still do not have email addresses on file with the JHUP. A new edition of the Membership Directory is slated for publication during the fall of 2008 and will be the responsibility of the new Secretary. Board members recommend that a direct link to information about the annual meeting be placed on the opening page of the Society website for use by participants at future meetings.

Society finances continue to improve, thanks largely to the royalties of the *JECS*. At the same time, investments in the NAPS mutual fund are beginning to generate a larger dividend for use by the Society.

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

b. President (Hunter)

No report given.

c. Vice-President (Blowers)

The 2008 annual meeting will feature about 180 papers, which is a significant increase over the 159 that were scheduled for the 2006 meeting. There were 60 sessions scheduled for the 2008 meeting, with 93 students participating. Blowers expressed appreciation to Beeley and Leyerle for their assistance in vetting papers for the meeting.

Everett Ferguson has been nominated and selected to receive the distinguished service award to be given at the Friday banquet. A plaque was prepared in his honor. The Society may wish to standardize the way in which such awards are given in the future.

Louis Swift was also slated to be recognized at the business meeting in appreciation for his work as book review editor for the *JECS*, even though he will not be at this year's meeting. So too, Ellen Muehlberger will be recognized at the meeting for her work as the editorial assistant for the journal. She will be replaced as editorial assistant by Bradley Storin.

A motion to accept the report of the Vice-President was offered (Burrus), seconded (Ayres) 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: Virginia Burrus of Drew University as Vice-President; Elizabeth Digeser of the University of California at Santa Barbara as Member-at-Large; Jeffrey Bingham of Dallas Theological Seminary as Member-at-Large; and, Brian Matz of Carroll College as Secretary-Treasurer.

A motion to accept these nominations was offered (Tilley), seconded (Blowers) and approved.

b. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (Brakke)

The financial health of the journal is good. The editors receive around 50 article submissions per year and accept around 30 percent of those for publication. There are sufficient articles to fill the pages through the first issue of the 2010 edition. The JHUP has agreed to increase the annual number of pages from 540 to 704, including front matter, etc. It is anticipated that there will now be around 5 articles per issue. The editors have established a guideline of 12,500 words (including notes) per article.

In the near future, the terms of two associate editors will expire: Rebecca Lyman and Bart Ehrman. The replacement of these editors will need to be considered.

Brakke's own term ends in 2010, but may be renewed if desired by the Board.

A recommendation was offered by Brakke to increase the stipend that is paid to the editorial assistant, particularly since there will be more work to be done with the expanding pages for each edition of the journal. The desired figure should look attractive to future students and be competitive against other scholarship offers. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that the new stipend of the editorial assistant will be \$17,600, payable beginning in the third quarter of the calendar year (i.e., with the September payment).

A motion to approve this stipend recommendation was offered (Hunter), seconded (Blowers) and approved.

c. Patristic Monograph Series (Hunter for Rousseau)

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

With this report Rousseau officially offers his resignation as editor of the series.

Discussion ensued about the future of the series, including whether the Society should continue with its arrangement to publish the series with the Catholic University of America Press. The series has not been particularly fruitful in general and past issues are not always easily obtained. Hunter proposed that an ad hoc publications committee be appointed to look into issues related to the future of the series and to search for the next editor. He will appoint members to this committee, which will include himself, Brakke, Leyerle, and Beeley, in addition to others.

A resolution was offered to thank Rousseau for his years of service as editor of the series.

d. Best First Published Paper Award (Hunter)

As selected by a committee of reviewers, the winner of this year's award is Kristin Upson-Saia for her online article "Caught in a Compromising Position: The Biblical Exegesis and Characterization of Biblical Protagonists in the Syriac Dialogue Hymns," *Hugoye* 9/2 (July 2006), which may be found online at <http://syrc.com.cua.edu/Hugoye/Vol9No2/HV9N2UpsonSaia.html>. Hunter offered

his appreciation to Brakke and those who helped him with the review of this year's numerous entries.

6. Other Business

a. 2009 Annual Meeting (Hunter)

After some limited discussion, it was recommend that the meetings for the next two years be held again at Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza under the direction of SMI for the dates of 21-23 May 2009 and 27-29 May 2010.

b. Search for a new PMS editor

See the discussion under 5.c above.

c. Collaboration with AIEP

The international patristics society has expressed an interest in collaborating with the NAPS in future endeavors and publicity. Considerable discussion ensued about how the two societies could interact, with no firm decisions made.

d. Other business

Jefford observed that the Society now finds itself in a sufficiently secure financial position to begin to reimburse the editors of the *JECS* and PMS for their work. After some debate, it was decided that, in the case of the PMS editor, this would be part of the discussion of the ad hoc committee to be appointed by Hunter. In the case of the editor of the *JECS*, it was recommended that the editor receive a stipend of \$2,500 annually to be paid in its entirety at the end of each calendar year.

A motion to approve this stipend was offered (Blowers), seconded (Burrus) and approved.

Jefford next advised the Board that in the foreseeable future there would be need to establish the role of Secretary/Treasurer as a more permanent position of the Society, payable and without specified term limits as now defined in the By-Laws. Reasons for this move include the fact that the Society has little other "institutional memory" beyond the Secretary and that there is now no formal place to store archives or to work shared arrangements with institutions who wish to trade journals. The position needs to be in the hands of someone who can make it a primary task, rather than a "back burner" duty as is typical for junior academic colleagues in a teaching position.

Finally, Jefford recommended that stipends for PMS manuscript readers be raised in accordance with comparable rates that are offered by publishing houses.

Hunter offered thanks to Jefford for his work as Secretary/Treasurer during the previous 8 years.

7. Hunter adjourned the meeting at 11:57 am.

(Addendum to the 2008 Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting)

**North American Patristics Society
Summary of the Business Meeting
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
23 May 2008**

1. A moment of silence was observed for those members of the NAPS who have passed away since the 2006 annual meeting, including the Society's first president, Bruce M. Metzger.
2. The Society will publish its Membership Directory during the fall of 2008. All members are encouraged to have updated addresses on file with the JHUP by 01 September 2008 in order to insure the accuracy of the directory.
3. The Executive Board recommended that the following persons be offered to the Society for Board positions during the forthcoming year: Virginia Burrus of Drew University as Vice-President; Elizabeth Digeser of the University of California at Santa Barbara as Member-at-Large; Jeffrey Bingham of Dallas Theological Seminary as Member-at-Large; and, Brian Matz of Carroll College as Secretary-Treasurer.

A motion to accept this slate of candidates was offered, seconded and approved.

4. The Society was informed that the winner for the 2008 Best First Published Paper competition was Kristin Upson-Saia for her online article "Caught in a Compromising Position: The Biblical Exegesis and Characterization of Biblical Protagonists in the Syriac Dialogue Hymns," *Hugoye* 9/2 (July 2006), which may be found at <http://syrcom.cua.edu/Hugoye/Vol9No2/HV9N2UpsonSaia.html>.
5. The Executive Board announced that Everett Ferguson would be honored for the 2008 Distinguished Service award at the Friday banquet.
6. Appreciation was extended to Ellen Muehlberger for her work as editorial assistant for the *JECS*. Bradley Storin was introduced as her replacement for the position. Appreciation was offered to Louis Swift for his work as book review editor, the duties of which have now been passed to Rick Layton of the University of Illinois. Appreciation was offered to Clayton Jefford for his Society work as Secretary/Treasurer, a position that he has held since 2000.
7. A request was made by David Eastman that student representation be given to the meetings of the Executive Board. Upon motion, second and approval, the Society agreed that Eastman should serve in that capacity for the 2009 Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton N. Jefford

06 June 2008