

2009 Board Meeting
North American Patristics Society
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
21 May 2009

Attending: Paul Blowers (Pres), Virginia Burrus (VPres), Brian Matz (Sec/Treas), David Hunter (recent past Pres), Blake Leyerle (MatL), Christopher Beeley (MatL), Elizabeth Digeser (MatL), Jeffrey Bingham (MatL), David Brakke (*J ECS* Ed), David Eastman (Student Rep), Rick Layton (Nominating committee), Debbie Cowen (event coordinator).

Paul Blowers called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

1. The President welcomed the new Members-at-Large (Digeser/Bingham). Also welcomed student rep (David Eastman). Also welcomed Debbie Cowen of SMI.
2. Debbie Cowen's report.
In addition to her discussion of the written report (including attendance and financial calculations – a copy of this report is on file in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer), Debbie reported NAPS will meet at the same location next year and confirmed the details of our contract with the hotel. Costs for next year are roughly equivalent to this year's cost.
She urged the NAPS board to consider its plans for the 2012 and 2013 meeting location soon.
This way she and her staff will have ample time to secure the best rates and to develop a two-year contract with the hotel. David Hunter requested that a discussion of where to have 2012 meeting be added to today's agenda.
SMI proposes running a web-based, Call for Papers discussion. [A copy of the proposal with financial projections is on file in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer]. Virginia Burrus agreed this was the right move for the society to make. The Board agreed to postpone further action on this item until the VP report later in the meeting.
Blowers expressed appreciation to SMI and its staff for their work on the 2008 annual meeting.
3. The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 2008 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes without correction was offered (Layton), seconded (Burrus) and approved.
4. Officer reports
 - a. Secretary-Treasurer (Matz)
Matz reviewed the financial health of the society. [The written report is on file in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer].
The numbers for Society membership have increased by 6% since last year's meeting. 814 members were reported as of the 2008 meeting. This year the number is 862. Two issues of the *Patristics* newsletter were generated in September 2008 and March 2009, and the bi-annual member directory was prepared in December 2008, mailed to members in January 2009.
In commenting on the expenditures involved to produce and to distribute the Patristics newsletter, and in pointing out the frequent duplication of items mentioned in the newsletter and via the NAPS listserv, Matz proposed using the listserv and the website as the primary means of communication with the membership. Matz explained the listserv

should not be an opt-in item, but an opt-out item. Brakke pointed out that this was precisely the problem he and some others raised at the time the Board decided to create this listserv and to make it “opt-in.” Matz proposed the Board reverse its earlier decision and to make the listserv and opt-out element of membership in the society. Hunter moved to accept this proposal. Leyerle seconded. All approved.

Motion was made to accept the Sec-Treas report. It was seconded. All approved.

b. VP Report (Burrus)

Burrus discussed her work in organizing this year’s conference. She suggested that, in this economic climate of tightening, academic budgets, NAPS members want to know earlier than early Spring semester if they are to be on the program. Others on the Board expressed their sharing in this concern. Burrus also added an earlier deadline for proposals would alleviate many of the tyranny-of-the-urgent problems that accompany our current proposal deadline.

Burrus also proposed developing more peer-organized, pre-organized sessions seeing that this will further strengthen the conference program and alleviate some of the burden on the VP to plan the nearly 60 paper sessions. Bingham proposed the ASCH model, which has different members review papers on different topics. Hunter responded this might change the ethos of NAPS. It might create cliques. Blowers responded that we want to be less tribal over time, and have been trending that direction (e.g., putting social historians together with historical theologians). Beeley opposed changes to the current structure. His concern was with students who may not know how to get in on sub-groups or pre-org sessions. After further discussion on this point, he clarified he was not opposed to pre-org sessions, but just that this not become the dominant means for getting on the NAPS program.

Brakke summarizes the VP’s proposals and moves that the Board accept the following three actions: 1) earlier deadline for call; 2) have SMI run the web-based proposal submission program [cf. D. Cowen report above]; 3) encourage more pre-org sessions. Beeley seconded. All approved.

c. President (Blowers)

No report given.

5. Committee Reports

a. Nominating Committee (Layton)

Layton explained he was filling in for the nominations committee chair, Kate Cooper, who could not be in attendance at this year’s NAPS meeting.

Reported that 13 nominations were submitted for MatL. Committee proposes, for MatL, Wendy Mayer and Luke Dysinger, O.S.B.

Reported that 12 nominations were submitted for VP. Committee proposes Dennis Trout.

Blowers expressed appreciation for the committee’s work. Beeley moved to accept the committee’s report. Burrus seconded. All approved.

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

Reported 49 submissions to JECS during 2008. Journal accepts about 30% of submissions.

Backlog problem mentioned last year is slowly being resolved. Holding authors to the stated word count; more pages added to the journal. One special issue will now be every-

other-year instead of every year. However, JECS is already violating that promise, because June 09 issue will be special one devoted to Patricia Cox-Miller.

Current wait-time for publication is 15 months; Brakke would like it to be 12 months, but is happy with 15 months.

Brakke indicated two new persons will be named as associate editors later this summer, as Brian Daley and Patricia Cox-Miller's second (and final) terms expire at the end of 2009. Brakke also pointed out his term as editor ends in June 2010 and that he is eligible for one additional five-year term. Blowers moved to extend Brakke's term for another 5 years (to 2015). Leyerle seconded. All approved.

c. Patristic Monograph Series (Hunter)

Currently no editor. David Hunter serves as interim editor. Meeting was held at SBL between Brakke, Leyerle and Hunter. Sent out call for an editor nomination in January 2009. Currently no viable candidate.

Hunter reported that Philip Rousseau, our liaison with CUA Press, indicated to him 3 volumes have been published in past 4 years, which was deemed acceptable. No manuscripts sent in during last year. Rousseau felt it might need to move out of CUA Press. Too expensive (subvention) and too long for time-to-publication. Rousseau also indicated a need for two editors: one to advertize and solicit; one to review manuscripts.

Brakke suggests to the Board there is a need to re-constitute the "search committee" because the current one failed. Burrus is asked to look into this as one of her tasks as society's president over coming year. Also, Burrus suggested NAPS look for an editor who wants to change the situation around and not someone who will continue status quo. She asked Brakke whether or not we know JHU Press will accept this as a JECS Supplement Series, if it leaves CUA Press. Brakke says no one has talked to JHU yet.

d. Best First Article Prize

Jeffrey Jay was selected for "Best First Article" prize for his Winter 2008 article in JECS.

Brakke proposed the prize now be given in an every-other-year format. Blowers moved to accept this proposal. Burrus seconded. All approved.

5. Student government position.

Due to the decision at the 2008 business meeting to appoint a student rep to the Board, David Eastman now serves in that position in an ad-hoc capacity. Board discusses whether and how to make the position permanent. Layton says we need first to decide what the student actually represents. Leyerle responds they just represent themselves. Brakke suggests we plan to amend the constitution to create a student rep position.

Brakke formally proposes VP appoints an ad-hoc, non-voting member for next year. Brakke also proposes amending by-laws to allow nominating committee to appoint a non-voting member at 2010 meeting for service to 2012. Beeley seconded. All approved.

Matz and Blowers agree to meet later to discuss what specific proposal needs to be brought before the 2009 business meeting to make this by-law change possible.

6. Graduate Student grant/assistance

Blowers tables this for next year.

7. Stipends/Honoraria

Burrus proposes no longer paying banquet speaker. Burrus also proposes honorarium at \$650 for plenary speakers. Burrus moved. Matz seconded. All approved.

Blowers moved the Secretary-Treasurer to begin receiving a stipend of \$1,500. Burrus seconded. All approved.

Blowers adjourned at 11:52.

**North American Patristics Society
Minutes of the 2009 Business Meeting
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
22 May 2009**

President (Paul Blowers) called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

1. Moment of silence observed for David Scholer and Fr. Tom Martin.
2. Secretary-Treasurer report
Reviewed membership and JECS subscription statistics. Announced changes to the NAPS email listserv, making it “opt-out” rather than “opt-in”, which will hopefully take effect by August 2009. This was received with applause by the membership.
Distributed to membership the NAPS Balance Sheet for years 2002-2008. [Handout available for review in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer]. Questions were asked about why the Conference Expenses amount had risen so much last year. As this amount was based on contractual fees agreed to by Board members from one or more years ago, Treasurer was not in a position to explain fully the reason for the increase. Treasurer proposed to look into this further and respond to membership soon with an answer.
John O’Keefe proposed that the Secretary look into moving the NAPS website off the Creighton server, due to the fact that server was to be taken offline later this year. O’Keefe further asked the Treasurer to look into an aesthetic upgrade to the website. Treasurer responded by offering a stipend to any member with such expertise to assist in this transition, and confirmed that this would be addressed over the coming months.
3. VP report
Discussed 2009 conference matters. It is a testament to loyalty to society - high numbers of registrants (300 last year; 305 this year). Thanks to everyone for coming - good papers, panels and pre-organized sessions. Reported that Board is initiating things for students and wanting to do more. Grad student breakfast this year was a good start to that.
Requests that members give comments about this year’s conference on yellow survey form. VP particularly encouraged grad students to put ideas down.
Announced three changes to next year's conference: 1) earlier call for papers deadline; 2) online paper submissions; 3) inviting pre-organized sessions (groups will be encouraged to send out mini call for papers via our listserv).
Thanks to Debbie and SMI for their work on our behalf. Thanks to IVP for their support of our coffee breaks in book display room. Thanks to current President for his support of her during her year of VP.
4. Nominations Committee report
Paul thanks Kate Cooper, who is leaving the cmte at end of her 3-yr term. Rick Layton steps in for Kate, who can't be here this year, to do the committee’s report. 13 nominations for MatL. Wendy Mayer and Luke Dysinger are chosen. 12 nominations for VP. Dennis Trout chosen. No nominations made from floor. A motion to accept the slate was offered, then seconded and unanimously approved.
5. By-Laws Ammendment

President moves to amend by-laws, Art 2, section 1. The motion reads, "NAPS amends its by-laws, Article 2, Section 1 to change the word "seven" to "eight" in reference to the size of the NAPS Board." Blowers explains this is to allow the Board to ask the nominating committee to begin a search for a Student Representative to sit on the NAPS Board. Blowers further indicates this change can only officially take place once the NAPS membership votes to amend the Constitution to create such a permanent position. A proposal to change the Constitution will be offered at next year's business meeting. The motion is seconded. There was no discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

President adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm.