

**Minutes of the 2017 AGM
of the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric (CSSR/SCER)
At Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences 2017
Ryerson University, May 31, 2017**

**Procès-verbal de la RGA de la société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Rhétorique
Au Congrès des Humanités et des Sciences Sociales 2017
Université Ryerson, 31 Mai 2017**

In Attendance / Membres présents:

Tania Smith (Chair of Meeting), and 16 members

David Beard John Moffatt Pierre Zoberman Bruce Dadey Devon Moriarty	Tess Laidlaw M.Shivaun Corry Tracy Whalen Sarah Whyte Shannon Purves-Smith Monique Kamphern	Roger Graves Guillermo Caliendo Kyle Gerber Julie Dainville Benoit Sans
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2:45 Call to Order/ 2h45 Début de la réunion

Approval of Agenda / Approbation de l'ordre du jour

- Whalen Moved
- Shivaun Seconded
- *Discussion:* Laidlaw asked to add a section to New Business (the addition of a writing group)
- Approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes / Approbation du procès-verbal

- Sans moved
- Caliendo seconded
- *Discussion:* Benoit Sans asked that the website be corrected to reflect his status on the editorial board, as voted in 2016 and reflected in the minutes.
- Approved by unanimous vote.

President and Webmaster's Report by Smith / Rapport du Président et du Webmaster par Smith

- Smith described the process and labor involved in constitution revisions since 2015 and in the months prior to the AGM.
- Smith explained this year's process for review of more student draft presentations than usual (feedback was submitted to 11 authors as part of mentoring) and student award
- Smith summarized the Advisory Committee's online review of conference presentation proposals (34 submitted; 30 accepted; this year, selected reviewers' feedback was submitted to authors)

- Smith thanked Wills and Zoberman for their work on the recent journal volumes
- Beard thanked Smith for working on the redesign of the layout of journal articles
- Smith expressed concerns:
 - *Membership growth.* The 2018 conference location in Regina and timing (close to RSA) may yield a decrease in attendance (and associated decrease in membership). Smith recommended a “Membership Development Committee” to research prospective members in Canada and beyond, with targeted membership appeals to individuals, and a report back to the AGM in 2018.
 - Purves-Smith reminded us that the VP has traditionally had the role of publicity and membership, and that we can learn from past VP membership initiatives.
 - Smith reminded us that membership may need to include benefits beyond a line on the CV (e.g. professional development workshops).
 - *Demands on the executive for service.* Constitution revisions and Student draft review for more students added to the workload of the Executive this year. The president had considerable workload with conference planning and coordination email in addition to serving as Webmaster. As a result, the Executive committee had difficulty finding time to complete all tasks before the conference began.
 - *Website & social media.* Smith expressed ongoing need for help with labor and for controlling costs while maintaining identity. Increasing complexity of online communication. Security concerns. Website occasionally unavailable.
 - *Possible increase in fees.* In future, website costs may rise.
 - *Need for CSSR alias.* See constitutional revisions part 2

Vice-President and Treasurer’s Report by Moffatt / Rapport du Vice-président et du Trésorier par Moffatt

- Moffatt presented the Treasurer’s report, because David Beard is not a Canadian resident and is thus ineligible to serve as treasurer.
- Brief notes: Congress still owes us \$1,000 from 2016 (funding for international keynote speaker); Ryerson University’s Faculty of Arts graciously subsidized our presence at Congress 2017 in the amount of \$700, thanks to the efforts of our CSSR local organizing co-chairs from Ryerson’s Department of English, Colleen Derkatch and Dale Smith. Income from EBSCO royalties for our journal accessed through their database totaled \$681.86. CSSR is healthy, with \$5819.30 as current balance. Smith noted that website hosting and domain renewal fees will be an expense in the coming year (these fees only occur every 5-6 years). See details in the 2017 CSSR financial report document.
 - Motion to accept the report by Zoberman
 - Second Purves-Smith
 - Unanimous acceptance by hand vote.

Rhetor report by Zoberman/ Rapport sur Rhetor par Zoberman

- Zoberman reported that the 2017 journal (*Rhetor* 7) is well under way. Submissions for *Rhetor* 8 are beginning.

- Zoberman asked Beard to report on the in-progress special issue on national identity and rhetorical scholarship. Beard asked contributors to raise hands, and many were present in the room.
- The process for review of special issues was discussed.
- Members expressed concerns about the role of graduate students in reviewing journal article manuscripts and serving on the editorial board. Discussion revealed the opinion that it was not necessary to hold a PhD, but a record of scholarship. Graves recommended that students not serve on the editorial board, and that the Editor review CVs of editorial board members. [Note: this issue is partly addressed in constitution revisions outlining the Editor's role].

BREAK 4:00

Constitutional Revisions / Révision constitutionnelles

As mandated by Section 7 of the constitution, the executive distributed the proposed revisions to the membership for review 6 weeks before the AGM. We used two Google Forms that explained rationales and permitted responses. No responses were received prior to the AGM.

See appended PDF copies of the two Google Forms

1. Motion to revise Constitution article 4, to restructure the executive committee/ Proposition de révision de l'article 4 de la Constitution, pour restructurer le comité exécutif.

Edits:

- Zoberman noted that a minor error should be corrected regarding the ability of members to hold two roles on the executive, from "Not more than two voting roles" to "Not more than one voting role."

Discussion:

- Purves-Smith noted that the new system loses the virtue of security and stability in meeting needs of the organization that comes from the old system (formerly there was a succession between 4 executive roles over 8 years).
- Zoberman noted that we might in future split the secretary role from the treasurer role. Smith agreed, noting that there were many complex changes this year.
- Whalen noted that the statement of valuing diversity is merely a principle and guideline, without mandating power.
- Laidlaw noted that we might seek term limits in the future, especially the President's maximum term, to encourage organizational renewal.
- Zoberman reminded the committee that the two-year timetable for the journal reflects the intense labor of producing a journal. Smith noted that the timetable is in part set by the CFP cycle; rolling submissions might change that cycle.
- Sans noted that the executive needs a Francophone member. This is reflected in the constitution revisions under nominations.

The vote:

- Moved by Whalen

- Seconded by Caliendo
- Passed by 13 yes votes with three abstentions (several members did not remain for the duration of the AGM). Those who abstained expressed that they recognized the value and success of the prior system over many years.

2. Motion to revise Constitution article 1, including the addition of an official alias name for the organization, RhetCanada / RhétCanada / Proposition de révision de l'article 1 de la Constitution pour inclure l'ajout d'un alias officiel pour la société, RhetCanada / RhétCanada.

- Smith briefly explained the need for an alternative to our acronym CSSR/SCÉR for clear, concise online communication and a domain name. Also, in the past we have been confused with the other CSSR, Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, also meeting at Congress, and their website domain name is the same as ours, but without the hyphen: cssrscer.ca

The vote:

- Moved by Corry
- Seconded by Dainville
- Accepted by 15 yes votes, one abstention.

Elections / Élections

Slate for the new Executive Committee/ Composition du comité exécutif:

- Smith nominated for President (for a 2nd two-year term)
 - by Moffatt and Beard
- Beard nominated for Vice-President (formerly Secretary)
 - by Smith
 - Beard expressed that he was not interested in progressing to President
- Moffatt nominated for Secretary-Treasurer (formerly Treasurer and VP)
 - by Beard
- Whalen nominated for Editor
 - by Smith
- Sans nominated for Member at Large (2nd term, position has 1 year term)
 - by Smith
- Dadey nominated for Webmaster
 - by Smith
- Smith asked Zoberman to remain on Executive as Past President, and he agreed.

The vote:

- Moved by Purves-Smith
- Seconded by Gerber
- Accepted by unanimous vote.

Advisory Committee / Comité de sélection:

- Caliendo nominated to serve on the Advisory Committee

The vote:

- Dadey moved.
- Whalen seconded.
- Motion passes by voice vote.

Smith noted that we may need one more member, a replacement for Tracy Whalen, since she is becoming Editor. This was referred to online vote.

Editorial committee / Comité éditorial:

Smith put forward the name of a nominee desiring to be added to the editorial committee. However, before a vote, Graves suggested that the Editor review CVs of prospective editorial board members. Smith agreed that given our discussion of editorial board membership and the newly ratified constitutional revisions (see above), it would be advisable to change this process and not vote on editorial board members at the AGM as has been traditionally done. Its membership in future should be reviewed and approved by the Editor.

M. Shivaun Corry volunteers to accept the role of Social Media Coordinator, a role reporting to the Webmaster.

Corry noted that she was currently employed in this role and has skills and experience. Smith noted that Corry has been helping with our Facebook page. We continue to benefit from a team of volunteers who have agreed to continue to assist the Webmaster (Dadey) with the website and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Google+).

Other business / Autres questions

Smith noted that the meeting was already over time due to constitution revisions. We would have to make decisions on most of these items after the AGM.

Membership Development Working Group / Groupe de travail pour le développement des membres

See president's report discussion above. This working group will be constituted later, by email.

Local Arrangement Coordinators (LAC), Congress 2018 / Coordinateurs locaux pour l'organisation du Congrès 2018

None yet nominated. Each year, the Congress asks us to designate a person to assist with site-specific conference planning, such as choosing a building/room for our association meetings. [In 2016 Smith recruited our 2017 LACs via email, after the AGM]

2018 Conference Special Theme

After the AGM ended, the executive decided to collect theme suggestions during the final day of the conference and hold a vote at the end of the conference. Delegates wrote themes on designated sheets of paper. Those present at the end of the final session participated in the vote. We first compiled a list of all suggestions on screen, consolidating duplicates and eliminating recent years' themes. The first round allowed each person to vote for as many themes as they desired. We then narrowed down the choice to the three themes with the most votes (including

two ties, there were five themes). The second round allowed each person to vote only for one theme. The theme with the most votes was “*That’s not rhetoric!*” “*Yes, it is.*”

Adjourned at 5:20 / Fin de la réunion à 17h20.