

SOCIETY FOR REFORMATION RESEARCH
BUSINESS MEETING
18 OCTOBER 2014, NEW ORLEANS

MINUTES

Emmet McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 5:14 pm

Kay Edwards announced that the agenda was available in hard copies in the meeting room and had been distributed via the listserv. There was also information about a graduate paleography seminar being offered by Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; that material was also available here as printouts and via the SRR listserv.

1. Approval of 2013 Minutes (Emmet McLaughlin)--minutes attached

Emmet McLaughlin called for approval of the 2013 minutes; Ward Holder moved to approve them, and Rudy Almasy seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

2. Nominating Committee Report (Ward Holder)

Ward Holder described the process by which nominees were selected and the care taken to represent the various fields and disciplines comprising the SRR.

Ward Holder presented the committee's nominees for approval and election:

- Recording Officer (2015-18): Beth Plummer (Western Kentucky University)
- Executive Council (2015-18): Ron Rittgers (Valparaiso University)
- Nominating Committee (2015-18): Chad Gunnoe (Aquinas College)
- Program Secretary (2015-18): Amy Nelson Burnett (University of Nebraska)
- Program Chairs for Kalamazoo (2015-18): Rudy Almasy (West Virginia University) and Maureen Thum (University of Michigan, Flint)

Ward Holder moved to accept the slate of nominees; Anne Jacobson Schutte seconded, and the slate was approved unanimously.

3. Membership Report (Victoria Christman)

Victoria Christman noted that the Society's membership is slowly decreasing: currently there are 90 active members. She also compared the membership numbers to those subscribing to the *Archive for Reformation History* (ARG) and its literature review, whose numbers are holding steady. She and other members urged us to encourage graduate students and colleagues to join the SRR.

Susan Karant-Nunn moved that the report be approved, and Ward Holder seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report (Victoria Christman for Robert Christman)

Victoria Christman explained that the budget is balanced, and total assets are \$53,000.

This year the SRR made PayPal available for the first time for individuals paying for the ARG, and it worked well because how it streamlined the transaction. After discussions with the editors and other involved parties, they have decided to charge a \$20 flat fee for the ARG for those outside the US. Both Victoria and Robert Christman also urged recognition for their administrative assistant who took over much of the day-to-day management while they were outside the US on sabbatical.

Emmet McLaughlin noted that the extra fee described above will only be applied to new subscribers.

Jeannine Olson asked how much PayPal charges. Victoria Christman said just over \$1 per use, which came to \$42 for 30 subscriptions.

Ward Holder moved that the report be approved, and Beth Plummer seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

5. Nischan Award and Chrisman Fellowship (Emmet McLaughlin)

Reminder of Chrisman Fellowship this year. Emmet McLaughlin reminded the membership that the Chrisman Fellowship provides \$2,000 in travel funds for a graduate student. The deadline is March 1, 2015, and information about submission is on the SRR website.

Nischan Award. Emmet McLaughlin described the reason the award was founded and the qualities looked for in a Nischan Award winner: scholarship, civility, and service. He then presented the award to this year's winner, James D. Tracy.

6. Archive for Reformation History Report (Randall Zachman)

Randall Zachman reported that submissions are up in 2015, and 5 articles from North American will appear in the 2015 volume; 7 articles are in process to be potentially published in the 2016 volume. He and his fellow editor, Brad Gregory, are discussing a special issue with the European editor of the ARG, Ute Lotz-Heumann, for 2017. He also praised Karin Maag and Amy Nelson Burnett for encouraging the participants in their NEH seminar to submit their papers as articles for the ARG. He called for additional submissions and noted that they now have a faster turn-around time. The ARG has now gone digital, and the 2014 edition of the ARG should come out anytime (it's already at the publishers).

7. Programming (Rudy Almasy and Beth Plummer)

Beth Plummer announced that the SRR sponsored 12 sessions plus Thursday-night roundtable at this year's SCSC. The SRR programming also benefitted from the seminar run by Karin Maag and Amy Nelson Burnett, as many of their participants

submitted materials to the SRR panels. She also thanked the membership for its assistance during her three-year term as program secretary.

Rudy Almasy announced that the SRR still sponsors 3 sessions at Kalamazoo every year. He and Maureen Thum are working on developing greater diversity among presenters and possibility coming up with something thematic for 2017. He also noted that they are refurbishing the dorms at Kalamazoo, so the housing options should be either cheaper or better.

8. Web Page (Mack Holt)

Mack Holt said that he was willing to continue to post material to the SRR website but that he would be fine if someone else would like to take over. Victoria Christman thanked Mack for all his help setting up the PayPal link.

9. Listserv (Randall Zachman)

Randall Zachman noted that Notre Dame is still willing to host the SRR listserv and he's working with Victoria Christman to keep the membership list there current. If someone wants anything posted there, they can send emails to him or to Beth Plummer, the Recording Officer.

10. 2017 Anniversary Planning Committee and NEH Seminar (David Whitford)

David Whitford reported on the joint 2017 SRR-VRG conference. That program is moving forward, and there will be plenaries as well as breakout sessions. There is now a draft introduction to the conference in German and an English translation will be forthcoming.

Ward Holder described the discussions with the ASCH on holding a joint meeting in January or spring 2017 on the subject of the Reformations and their impact in North America. He noted that the ASCH wants the SRR to prime the pump for this in January 2016, perhaps using the anniversary of the *Novum Instrumentum* as a way of setting the stage.

Karin Maag also announced that she, David Whitford, and Katherine Elliot van Liere are in the process of planning an NEH Summer Seminar for 2016 on Teaching the Reformations. It will be at Calvin College

11. Revision of the Constitution (Emmet McLaughlin and Kay Edwards)

Kay Edwards reported on the plan to revise the SRR Constitution. She described the origins of this plan when she noticed some inconsistencies in term length and titles for officers. Unfortunately, as she began to revise it, she noticed a series of points that needed to be changed in order to reflect current practices and additions based on new activities, such as grant and award programs, run by the SRR. After discussions with Emmet McLaughlin, Karin Maag, and Susan Karant-Nunn, the decision was made to

appointment a committee to undertake such revisions and to submit the revisions for approval following the current timetable in the constitution.

Because the more elaborate revisions and longer timetable they require prevented Kay Edwards from completing the revisions during her tenure as Recording Officer, she volunteered to chair the revision committee. Janis Gibbs and Tim Fehler offered to be the other committee members, and Emmet McLaughlin will also be on the committee *ex officio* as the current President. Karin Maag, President-Elect, and Beth Plummer, Recording Officer, will also be copied in any of the committee's activities.

Kay Edwards proposed that she will draft a copy of the new Constitution along with comments explaining the changes and will circulate it to the committee members. The committee will then take ca. two months to complete revisions and will circulate it to the SRR membership for general input by 1 August 2015, so that the timetable in the current Constitution is followed. The revisions will be discussed at the 2015 SRR Executive Council and business meetings, and a ballot will be circulated to the SRR membership via the listserv immediately after the conference.

The membership approved this proposal.

12. Other New Business (Emmet McLaughlin)

Anne Jacobson Schutte brought up the idea of financing a book prize. Amy Nelson Burnett asked how much that would cost, and after some discussion, the membership determined that, for a \$500 prize, we would need ca. \$12,500. Anne Jacobson Schutte noted that it could be unfunded, just recognition. There was discussion about what type of book would be considered and how it would differ from the Grimm prize; among the ideas were first book prize, "last book prize," and a prize rotated among the subdisciplines. Mary Jane Haemig wondered if we want to look beyond books—new formats or initiatives in teaching

Emmet McLaughlin will appoint a committee to consider this idea and will send a message to the membership asking for suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn A. Edwards

SOCIETY FOR REFORMATION RESEARCH
BUSINESS MEETING
26 OCTOBER 2013, SAN JUAN

AGENDA

Susan Karant-Nunn called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm and introduced herself and the new President (beginning January 1, 2014), Emmet McLaughlin.

1. Approval of 2012 Minutes (Susan Karant-Nunn)--minutes attached

Ward Holder moved to approve the 2012 minutes; David Whitford seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

2. Nominating Committee Report (Anne Jacobson Schutte)

Anne Jacobson Schutte noted the work that the other committee members (Ward Holder and Michael Bruening had done) and presented the committee's nominees for approval:

- President Elect/Vice-President (2014-15) and President (2016-17): Karin Maag (Calvin College and the Meeter Center for Calvin Studies)
- Treasurer (2014-16): Robert Christman (Luther College)
- Membership Secretary (2014-16): Victoria Christman (Luther College)
- Executive Council (2014-17): Wietse de Boer (Miami University of Ohio)
- Nominating Committee (2014-16): Janis Gibbs (Hope College)

Amy Nelson Burnett moved to accept the slate of nominees; Beth Plummer seconded, and the slate was approved unanimously.

Susan Karant-Nunn noted that the SRR would need to replace its current Recording Officer, Kathryn Edwards, in January 2015 and urged the membership to begin thinking of a possible replacement. Kathryn Edwards offered to provide information to anyone considering the position and guidance to the new Recording Officer.

3. Membership Report (Emmet McLaughlin)

Emmet McLaughlin presented the report that Victoria Christman submitted and offered to answer any questions. Ward Holder moved that the report be approved, and Anne Jacobson Schutte seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report (Emmet McLaughlin)

Emmet McLaughlin presented the report that Robert Christman submitted. Amy Nelson Burnett asked about the Society's current financial status, and Emmet McLaughlin noted that we have over \$52,000 in our accounts. Anne Jacobson Schutte moved that we forget the \$7 discrepancy that seems to be years old in the accounts.

Ward Holder praised the movement to PayPal as enhancing our membership base because of how easy it is to use, and others concurred. Beth Plummer added that Victoria

Christman registered the entire 2013 NEH Seminar, led by Karin Maag and Amy Nelson Burnett, as SRR members. Susan Karant-Nunn described the deliberation process for deciding to adopt PayPal and for the allocation of our endowment money.

Amy Nelson Burnett moved that we approve the Treasurer's Report, and David Whitford seconded. It was approved unanimously.

5. Nischan Award and Chrisman Fellowship (Susan Karant-Nunn)

Chrisman Fellowship. The 2013 Chrisman travel grant for graduate students was awarded to Stephen Scheperle for his project entitled "Distinguishing Saints from Sinners, Shepherd from Sheep, and the Affluent from the Afflicted: Individuating the Community in Sixteenth-Cen. Geneva."

Susan Karant-Nunn told the membership that the fellowship had now been endowed, and Emmet McLaughlin talked about the investment model used for the endowment. Jeannine Olsen asked about who handled the endowment; Emmet McLaughlin noted the committee (Randy Head, Robert Christman, and he) and that Robert Christman is now handling the day-to-day management.

Nischan Award. Kathryn Edwards noted that the committee for the 2014 award is Megan Armstrong (chair), Rudy Almasy, and Randall Zachman, representing history, literature, and theology. Susan Karant-Nunn noted the qualifications for the Nischan Award.

David Whitford moved that we accept the reports on awards and fellowships; Amy Nelson Burnett seconded. The reports were unanimously approved.

6. Archive for Reformation History Report (Brad Gregory and Randall Zachman)

Since neither of the editors was at the meeting, Susan Karant-Nunn summarized the report provided to the Executive Council, especially that the North American editorship was responsible for 3 articles in 2014 and 4 in 2013. She urged the council and colleagues to submit articles.

7. Programming (Beth Plummer)

The programming report began with a round of applause for Beth Plummer's work, after which Beth summarized the panel submissions sponsored by the SRR for the International Congress of Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo), the AHA/ASCH meeting, and the SCSC. For Kalamazoo, there were the usual three panels coordinated by Maureen Thum, for SCSC the SRR sponsored 15 panels and roundtables, and for the AHA/ASCH she was unable to submit a panel.

Susan Karant-Nunn noted the discussion held in the Executive Committee about the difficulties in getting proposals for the ASCH/AHA meeting and the decision reached by the Council that Beth Plummer will continue to ask for submissions for a panel but should not feel obligated to put together a panel for that conference.

8. Web Page (Kathryn Edwards)

Kathryn Edwards summarized what could be found on the website and that Mack Holt was acting as webmaster.

9. Listserv (Randall Zachman)

There was no report.

10. 2017 Anniversary Planning Committee and NEH Seminar (David Whitford)

Susan Karant-Nunn noted that Thomas Kaufmann, the President of the Verein für Reformationsgeschichte (VRG) and Anselm Schubert, the head of local arrangements for the joint 2017 SRR/VRG meeting, were at the Executive Council meeting yesterday to discuss that meeting. She and David Whitford then summarized the current state of planning for that meeting. The meeting is to be held in Nuremberg, 18-20 July 2017; Susan Karant-Nunn confirmed today with Anselm Schubert that there is no other vacancy in the Nuremberg museum, the proposed venue, for that summer. David Whitford then noted some potential difficulties for North American scholars since the Luther Congress meets the second week of August. Both stressed that the VRG and SRR representatives know they now need to work to develop a preliminary program, including the format.

Both Anne Jacobson Schutte and Kathryn Edwards raised questions about the meeting's format; Kathryn Edwards was particularly concerned that the site, with its one large room, would preclude anything other than plenary sessions and limited participation. The membership discussed the possibilities and potential participation and wondered what way the call for papers might be framed given this venue. Beth Plummer offered, while she was in Nuremberg, to look to find additional space for the conference so that we would have space for smaller, breakout sessions along the model of the 2009 Calvin conference, and Sigrun Haude suggested that she consider the university. The membership endorsed Beth Plummer's offer and Sigrun Haude's suggestion that it be presented to Thomas Kaufmann and Anselm Schubert as us "wanting to help." The discussion concluded with Susan Karant-Nunn affirming that the 2017 will have a blended character of plenaries and breakout sessions and Ward Holder advocating the 2009 Calvin conference as a model of how to accomplish that. Beth Plummer is unanimously approved as a member of the 2017 planning committee.

David Whitford then reported on the NEH seminars that the SRR co-sponsors. The SRR has linked with Calvin College and the Director of the Meeter Center for Calvin Studies there, Karin Maag, who have a tradition of preparing successful NEH seminars. Karin Maag and her people work on a seminar beginning about a year and a half before the seminar itself starts, and in 2016 the seminar will be on "Teaching the Lutheran Reformation." She has a successful proposal history with the NEH and is confident that this proposal will be accepted. He also noted that he's still talking to the Society of Biblical Literature on doing something with them to commemorate the publication Erasmus's *Novum Instrumentum*.

Both David Whitford and Ward Holder then reported on the plan to develop a conference in Boston in 2016 commemorating the beginning of the Reformation in cooperation with the Boston Theological Institute, REFO500, and possibly the Calvin Studies Society.

They are discussing using Boston University's School of Theology as a site for the conference because of the quality of its facilities.

11. Recognition of Departed or Retired Members (Susan Karant-Nunn)

Susan Karant-Nunn noted the death of Charles Nauert and that she had sent an email to his son to express the Society's sorrow.

Amy Nelson Burnett said that Michael Walton had also died this year, and Ward Holder asked about Thomas Mayer's health.

12. Other New Business (Susan Karant-Nunn)

Given the sparse attendance at the Business meeting, the membership resolved to send out a general reminder to the membership about the Business meeting both before and at the conference.

Beth Plummer moved to adjourn; Ward Holder seconded. The proposal was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn A. Edwards