

SOCIETY FOR REFORMATION RESEARCH
BUSINESS MEETING
24 OCTOBER 2015, VANCOUVER

MINUTES

Karin Maag called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

She announced that Emmet McLaughlin is unable to attend the SCSC meeting due to a family emergency. Karin Maag will cover as vice-president. She announced the recent passing of John Bossy.

1. Approval of 2014 Minutes (Karin Maag)—minutes attached

David Whitford moved to approve the 2014 minutes; Amy Burnett Nelson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Nominating Committee Report (Michael Bruening & Karin Maag)

Michael Bruening presented the committee's nominees for approval and election, and thanked the members of the committee, Janis Gibbs and Chad Gunnoe, for their assistance:

- President-Elect/VP (2016-2017): Randolph Head (UC-Riverside)
- Executive Council (2016-19): Karen Spierling (Denison University)
- Nominating Committee (2016-18): Jill Fehleison (Quinnipiac University)

Anne Jacobson Schutte moved to approve the slate of nominees; Randall Zachman seconded, and the slate was approved unanimously.

Karin Maag presented the nomination for approval of the reappointment of editors of the *Archive for Reformation History*:

- Brad Gregory (Notre Dame)
- Randall Zachman (Notre Dame)

Kay Edwards moved to accept the reappointment of the editors; Mack Holt seconded, and the reappointment was approved unanimously.

3. Membership Report (Victoria Christman)

Victoria Christman reported that our membership is currently at 88 active members. That is down a little bit from last year. She reported that the Executive Council had discussed how to increase membership at length and that these plans will be implemented. She also encouraged graduate students to join.

4. Treasurer's Report (Robert Christman)

Robert Christman stated that there was not much to report. The current asserts were holding steady at around \$52,000. This is down slightly due to one-time fees. He also reported that Chrisman fund has now been established as its own fund and that Paypal is used a great deal.

5. Nischan Award and Christman Fellowship (Katie Harris and Karin Maag)

After reporting that there were fourteen completed applications, Katie Harris announced that the 2015 Chrisman travel grant for graduate students was awarded to David Yoder Neufeld, a doctoral student at the University of Arizona for his project entitled "Seeking Toleration in a 'Persecuting Society': Anabaptism in Zürich, 1535-1650." He is currently using the grant on a research trip to Zurich.

Karin Maag reminded the members that the Nischan Award will be decided this year and announced the establishment of a new policy that applicants for the Chrisman award must be members at the time of their application.

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

Randall Zachman reported that there were a significant number of submissions for this year, and that seven articles will be published this year. The volume size for next year was expanded to allow all articles currently accepted to be published since otherwise they would have had to wait until 2018. Any new submissions will be considered for publication in 2018 and the authors will be informed of this potential wait. He also reported that there are thirty-two articles now lined up for the special 2017 edition: 16 contributors from the US, 16 from Europe. Anne Jacobson Schutte asked whether the 2015 issue is out and Randall Zachman and Ute Lotz-Heumann agreed that yes it should be out now. Randall Zachman thanked his assistants past and present for all their help in getting the volume together.

7. Programming (Rudy Almasy, Amy Nelson Burnett, Ron Rittgers)

Karin Maag announced that that Rudy Almasy could not make the business meeting. She gave his report that there continues to be lots of interest in proposing sessions for Kalamazoo. She also reported that the Medieval Academy has reduced the number of sessions for SRR down to two, but that we hope to return back to three sessions in the near future.

Amy Nelson Burnett reported that SRR sponsored sixteen sessions this year at the SCSC. She thanked Geoffrey Dipple and other organizers for putting together series of panels. She then invited all to submit individual papers and sessions for next year; she also welcomes those organizers submitting series of thematic sessions.

Ron Rittgers explained that last year we had three Reformation-related sessions at the American Association for Church History (ASCH); this year we have fourteen sessions. He thanked David Whitford, Ward Holder, and Randall Zachman for helping the effort. He then reported that ASCH is working harder to get SRR back integrated into the association; they have established a task force to help make sure that there are sessions in 2017. Jeannine Olson asked whether ASCH meets with AHA, and whether the *Church History* editorship is changing over. Ron Rittgers confirmed that it does meet with AHA for now and that ASCH will be looking for a new institutional home and editors for the journal.

8. Web Page (Mack Holt)

Karin Maag thanked Mack Holt for all the work that he has done on the web page. She reports that we are looking for someone to replace him. Mack Holt stated that he is willing to serve until then.

9. Listserv (Randall Zachman and Karin Maag)

Randall Zachman reported that SRR is working on developing policy about the official use of the Listserv. We are considering developing a section on the webpage for member publications. He reminded members to send messages directly to the Listserv for approval.

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

David Whitford reported the progress of the planning committee, including involvement in planning joint sessions at ASCH and SCSC. We have also agreed to co-sponsor a plenary session at the Calvin Studies Conference meeting March 16-18, 2017 at Baylor. The conference theme is Calvin and the early Reformation. Karin Maag reported that the National Endowment for the Humanities funded the Summer Institute for College and University Teachers focused on teaching, titled "Teaching the Reformation After Five Hundred Years," that she, David Whitford, and Katherine Van Liere will be teaching at Calvin College in Grand Rapids from July 11-29, 2016. Guest faculty will include John Roth, Kirsten Walton, and Katherine French. There will be space for 25 participants, including 3 graduate students.

11. Revision of the Constitution (Kay Edwards)

Kay Edwards explained why the revisions had been done to update the constitution to match to what we do and to take into account new technologies. The last revision that needs to be done is the section about digital organization. Once the revisions are done, the constitution will be sent out to the organization.

12. Other New Business (Karin Maag)

Karin Maag announced that SRR will be meeting at the SCSC conference in Bruges. She asked members to consider inviting scholars from here and abroad to submit SRR sessions to sponsor. She also noted that the conference will be multilingual. She then thanked Michael Bruening, Ralph Keen, and Susan Karant-Nunn who are rotating off the executive council.

Louis Reith thanked SRR for organizing the Nischan award, especially Susan Karant-Nunn, Anne Jacobson Schutte, and Merry Wiesner-Hanks.

David Whitford moved to adjourn; Randall Zachman seconded. The proposal was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Plummer

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

2014 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 Almasý 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 Almasý (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