

## **Society for Utopian Studies**

**36th Annual Meeting, State College, Pennsylvania**

**Business Meeting, Nittany Lion Inn, 12:15 pm on 22 Oct 2011**

### MINUTES

1. Welcome was given by Phil Wegner, President, who called for a moment of silence in memory of Nicole La Rose.
2. Conference report by Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor and Sonja Fritzsche: tribute to Art Lewis and reminder of plenary at Paterno Library; thanks to Michael of the Community Center for support; record registration this year of 144, including representation from 10 countries in addition to the United States.
3. Future conferences: 2012 will be in Toronto, chaired by Peter Fitting and Lyman Tower Sargent; 2013 will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, at the Francis Marion Hotel, chaired by Claire Curtis and Dina Smith.
4. Phil Wegner asked for conference proposals for 2014 and 2015.
5. Phil Wegner reported on behalf of Nicole Pohl, Editor of *Utopian Studies*. 86 mss were received and 11 were revised for publication, so there is a high selectivity and rejection rating. The relationship with PSU Press is wonderful. Jennifer is editing the special issue on education.
6. Alex Hall reported on *Utopus Discovered*. There were 3200 hits on the site last year. There was no issue the past year. *Utopus* will be electronic only on the new website.
7. Pete Sands reported on the Society's internet presence and on H-Net. He invited anyone interested to contact him about how to subscribe or unsubscribe.
8. Jill Belli reported progress on the development of the Society's new web site, which will be transitioning soon from the University of Toronto site.
9. Lyman Tower Sargent noted increasing interest in utopias outside the Western tradition, and mentioned Jacqueline Dutton's article in *The Cambridge Companion to Utopian Literature*. He noted that an online edition of *Sources of Utopia* has been published by the European society.
10. Alex MacDonald summarized the Treasurer's report: the cash position of the Society, consisting of \$64,000 in the Regina accounts and \$41,000 in other accounts, is approximately \$105,000. Current liabilities include a final journal publication payment to the University of Alaska Anchorage estimated at \$14,000, payment to PSU Press for two years (2 x 6,000) \$12,000 and the costs of the State College conference estimated at \$15,000, for total liabilities of about \$41,000 and a positive cash balance of \$64,000.
11. The Membership Committee (Brian Greenspan, Claire Curtis) reported that membership is up to 250 this year from 218 last year.

12. On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Naomi Jacobs presented the proposed slate of officers for 2011-12:

Phil Wegner, President/Chair (-2012)

Gib Prettyman, Secretary/Treasurer

Naomi Jacobs, Chair, Nominating Committee (-2012)

Ex-Officio (with vote):

Mark Jendrysik, Chair, Awards (-2012)

Nicole Pohl, Editor, *Utopian Studies*

Alex Hall, Editor, *Utopus Discovered*

Brian Greenspan, Membership Chair (-2014)

Carrie Hintz, Teaching Committee Chair (-2014)

Jill Belli, Web Site Liaison

Peter Sands, H-Net

Conference Chairs

Peter Fitting, 2012 Local Chair, Toronto, ON

Lyman Tower Sargent, 2012 Program Chair, Toronto, ON

Claire Curtis, 2013 Local Chair, Charleston SC

Dina Smith, 2013 Program Chair, Charleston SC

At-Large Members

Kate Broad (-2012)

Annette Giesecke (-2012)

Justin Nordstrom (-2013)

Beate Rodewald (-2013)

Nominating Committee

Naomi Jacobs (-2012)

Carrie Hintz (-2013)

One more person from SC at-large members, to be elected by them

Awards Committee

Mark Jendrysik (-2012)

Antonis Balasopoulos (-2014)

Toby Widdicombe (-2014)

Rebecca Totaro (-2014)

Mark Allison (-2013)

Membership Committee

Brian Greenspan (-2014)

Peter Fitting

Nicole Pohl

Gib Prettyman

Dwight Kiel (-2013)

Teaching Committee

Carrie Hintz

Ken Roemer (-2012)

Tom Moylan (-2013)

Pete Sands (-2014)

It was agreed to accept the slate of candidates as presented.

13. Gib Prettyman announced the following awards: the Arthur O. Lewis Award to Mark Tabone for "Delany's New Worlds Revisited;" the Eugenio Battisti Award for the best articles in *Utopian Studies* to Robert Hunter for "The Music of Change: Utopian Transformation in *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny* and *Der Silbersee*" in 21.2 (2010) 293-312 and to Christine Nadir for "Utopian Studies, Environmental Literature, and the Legacy of an Idea: Educating Desire in Miguel Abensour and Ursula K. Le Guin" in 21.1 (2010) 24-56.

14. Jill Belli announced that the winner of the Kenneth Roemer Teaching Award is Inderbir Singh Riar, for "Urbanism & Utopia: Modernity, Everyday Life and the City of Tomorrow." Course syllabus proposals should be submitted by April to Carrie Hintz to be considered for next year's award.

15. Brian Greenspan announced inauguration of the Nicole La Rose Graduate Student Travel Award. Decisions will be based on the quality of the proposed conference paper, an acceptable budget proposal and evidence of commitment to the Society.

16. Phil Wegner introduced two draft motions on behalf of the Steering Committee, on the matter of providing a one-time subvention grant of \$2000 for the publication of *Earth Perfect*, a book on gardens and utopianism by Naomi Jacobs and Annette Giesecke to be published in 2012. Resolution # 1 to support the grant was moved but not seconded; Lyman Tower Sargent moved that the issue of a grant for *Earth Perfect* be tabled. It was noted that the motion could be lifted from the table at the 2012 meeting or before that via e-mail. The motion to table was carried.

Resolution # 2 was as follows:

Given the dramatic decline of resources for scholarship in the humanities, social sciences, and other fields of research engaged in by the members of the

Society, the Society supports the Steering Committee's undertaking an exploration of the feasibility of subvention and other possible applications for financial support for scholarly research efforts by members of the Society. The Steering Committee will investigate the costs and benefits of any such program, eligibility criteria, and other issues, and in due course make a policy recommendation to the Society.

This motion was carried.

17. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.