

Minutes of the SUS Business Meeting, November 16, 2013
Gib Prettyman, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Society president Phil Wegner welcomed everyone and thanked the organizers, chairs, and volunteers.
2. The Society paid tribute to Dwight Kiel and his partner, Charlene Stinard.
3. **Conference report**, Charleston: Claire Curtis (Local chair) and Dina Smith (Program chair) reported on the conference, which had 175 participants, 288 room/nights, overflowed hotel. Online forms helped a lot. Will do a survey of participants after the conference to discover why the conference is so large.
4. **Future conference reports:**
 - a. The 2014 conference will be in Montreal, with Brian Greenspan as Local Conference chair and Peter Sands as Program chair. Delta Montreal, near McGill.
 - b. Phil invited members to share ideas or to express interest in helping to organize future conferences beyond 2014. Possibly something special for 2016, 500th anniversary of More's *Utopia*?
5. **Utopian Studies**. Via email, *Utopian Studies* editor Nicole Pohl reported: "The journal is doing fine, available via JSTOR and Project Muse now. We are currently finalizing a special issue on Utopia and Architecture. Plans are for Utopia and Food in 2015 (26.1), a mini-special issue on contemporary Russian utopias and of course in 2016 a special issue on the man himself. Fátima Vieira will provide a special book review issue for the latter one. Issues that have arisen and that we need to tackle or have tackled: (a) the system 'un-invites' reviewers quickly when they do not answer the reviewer invitation or are significantly late. We are on this with Penn State to find an alternative solution; (b) we are very slow in finding referees and thus with the turn-over so we are aiming to improve this; and (c) we do not have enough book reviews and need to change this in discussion with the book review editors." Those interested in reviewing MSS should contact Nicole directly. Phil announced support for editorial assistance for Nicole from the Steering Committee. Etta Madden announced a CFP for a special issue on Food and Utopia, which she will edit.
6. **Utopus Discovered** newsletter: No Report.
7. **Internet presence:**
 - a. Pete Sands reported that H-Utopia subscriptions (via H-Net) were up 575. There are subscriptions from 36 different countries. H-Net will be moving to a more web-based format.
 - b. Jill Belli reported on the website, which is becoming more robust. New features will be forthcoming in 2014. She invited submissions for a teaching archive. She also encouraged members to follow our twitter feeds and Facebook page. We will be working on concerns about security and terms of use policies. She welcomed feedback about the online submission process for the conference and encouraged people to register on the Society website.
8. **Treasurer's report:**
 - a. This year we collected about \$27,500: about 19.5 for conference, about 7.5 for memberships, the rest donations and interest.
 - b. Conference breaks even; memberships fund PSUP, awards, and miscellaneous costs; we've been about breaking even for the last two years.
 - c. The Society continues to have a substantial carry-forward of about \$80,000.
 - d. IRS issue—no update; still pending. Subvention question also still tabled as a result.
 - e. Penn State UP will include electronic access to *Utopian Studies* for paid members at no extra charge to the Society. Will involve JSTOR contacting members via email to set up an account.

9. **Membership report.** Brian Greenspan reported that we currently have around 216 members. Rolling expiration date makes the numbers fluctuate. Still working to integrate old membership database with new website system. Will contact people to remind them to renew.
10. **Nominating Committee:** Naomi Jacobs invited people interested in serving to contact her. Naomi invited nominations from the floor; none were received. She called a vote for the slate of nominees below, which was approved by hand vote.

2013-2014 SUS Steering Committee Membership and Nominees
(all nominations in italics)

STEERING COMMITTEE

Phil Wegner, President/Chair (-2014)
Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor, President-Elect (2013-2014), President/Chair (2014-2016)
Gib Prettyman, Secretary/Treasurer
Naomi Jacobs, Chair, Nominating Committee (-2014)

Ex-Officio (with vote):

Nicole Pohl, Editor, *Utopian Studies*
Alex Hall, Editor, *Utopus Discovered*
Jill Belli, Web Site Liaison
Peter Sands, H-Net
Rebecca Totaro, Awards Chair (-2014)
Brian Greenspan, Membership Chair (-2014)
Carrie Hintz, Teaching Committee Chair (-2014)

Conference Chairs:

Claire Curtis, 2013 Local Chair, Charleston, SC (-2014)
Dina Smith, 2013 Program Chair, Charleston, SC (-2014)
Brian Greenspan, 2014 Local Chair, Montreal (-2015)
Peter Sands, 2014 Program Chair, Montreal (-2015)

At-Large Members:

Justin Nordstrom (-2015)
Beate Rodewald (-2015)
Mark Tabone (-2014)
Corina Kesler (-2014)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Naomi Jacobs, Chair (-2014)
Carrie Hintz (-2014)
Justin Nordstrom (-2015)

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rebecca Totaro, Chair (-2014)
Antonios Balasopoulos (-2014)
Toby Widdicombe (-2014)
Ruth Levitas (-2015)
Nathaniel Coleman (-2015)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Brian Greenspan, Chair, Membership (-2014)
Brian Greenspan, 2014 local chair

Peter Sands, 2014 program chair
Nicole Pohl, Editor of *Utopian Studies*
Gib Prettyman, Secretary-Treasurer
Stephanie Boluk (-2015)

TEACHING COMMITTEE

Carrie Hintz, Chair (-2014)
Jill Belli (-2016)
Pete Sands (-2014)
Christina Braid (-2015)

11. **Awards Committee:** Phil announced this year's award winners for chair Rebecca Totaro:

Arthur O. Lewis Award: **Sarah Hogan**, "What More Means Now: Utopia, Occupy, and the Commons"; Eugenio Battisti Award for the best article in *Utopian Studies*: **Marlana Portolano**, "The Rhetorical Function of Utopia: An Exploration of the Concept of Utopia in Rhetorical Theory"(Vol. 23, No. 1, 2012: 113-141); Larry E. Hough Distinguished Service Award: **Fátima Vieira**, Universidade do Porto; Lyman Tower Sargent Distinguished Award: **Vita Fortunati**, Università degli Studi Bologna and **Darko Suvin**, McGill University (emeritus)

12. **Teaching Committee:** Carrie Hintz presented the Kenneth M. Roemer Innovative Course Design Award to **Peter Janos Galambos** for "NYC: Utopia." The committee invited submissions for next year's award and for the teaching portion of the website.

13. **New Business:**

- a. Gib explained the rationale for splitting the Secretary/Treasurer position into separate offices of Secretary-Archivist and Treasurer.
 - Complexity of society: number of committees, electronic voting, new initiatives
 - Institutional memory: minutes required for a corporation, collecting and organizing reports
 - Website content, by-laws: public face of information demands focused oversight
 - So far a lot of this work goes undone or insufficiently done
- b. Phil invited discussion. Question about archivist role; Lyman currently updates archives unofficially. Phil raised question of proper term for the new position; feedback is welcome.
- c. Phil asked that the motion to pursue this split be approved, with the understanding that specific bylaws revisions and other details will be ironed out before next year's meeting. **Motion carried.**

14. **New Business from the floor:**

- a. Toby Widdicome plans a dramatic adaption of *Utopia*; he invited interested people to contact him.

Meeting adjourned