

Minutes of the SUS Business Meeting, October 25, 2014
Gib Prettyman, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Society president Phil Wegner welcomed everyone and thanked the organizers, chairs, and volunteers.
2. Minutes were approved.
3. **Old Business: By-laws Revision.** At the 2013 meeting in Charleston, the membership approved a motion to split the current Secretary-Treasurer position into separate positions of Secretary-Archivist and Treasurer, with the specific by-laws revisions to be worked out and presented this year. Other by-laws were revised as needed to meet professional standards, make terms consistent, and reflect actual current practices. Phil presented the proposed by-law revisions. No discussion. Moved (Jill Belli), seconded (Claire Curtis), voted. **Motion approved.**
4. **Conference report, Montréal:** Brian Greenspan (Local chair) and Peter Sands (Program chair) reported on the conference, which was one of our largest ever with nearly 170 participants.
5. **Future conference reports:**
 - a. Plans are under way to hold the 2015 conference in Pittsburgh, with Cliff Manlove as Local Conference chair and Clint Jones as Program Chair.
 - b. Phil invited members to share ideas or to express interest in helping to organize future conferences beyond 2015. Possibly something special for 2016, 500th anniversary of More's *Utopia*?
 - c. Phil announced that there will be an ad hoc committee on conference issues and practices and invited participation.
6. **Utopian Studies.** Nicole Pohl reported that metrics for *Utopian Studies* have improved and it is now ranked as an International #2 journal by the European Science Foundation. An editorial assistant has been supported with funding from the Society. Nicole detailed plans for special issues and invited ideas for more. She also requested members to serve as reviewers and referees. Phil thanked Nicole for her work.
7. **Utopus Discovered** newsletter: The Steering Committee believes we should continue the newsletter and will attempt to revitalize it in some form.
8. **Internet presence:**
 - a. Pete Sands reported that H-Utopia subscriptions (via H-Net) were about 570. H-Net completed its move to a web-based format. To interact with it you have to go to H-Net to set up profile. We now can publish book reviews. Pete invited people to become involved with H-Utopia.
 - b. Jill Belli reported on the website. She noted that we will have an ad hoc digital presence committee. We used online registration again this year and will pilot conference software next year. We have around 300 followers on Facebook and 200 on Twitter.
9. **Announcements.** Ken Roemer presented summary data from previous conferences. Nathaniel Coleman invited members to the Newcastle meeting of USS for 2015 in July.
10. **Treasurer's report:**
 - a. IRS reinstated our tax-exempt status as a public charity, including retroactive coverage for the period when we were revoked for non-compliance. We are now required to complete a brief tax form every year.
 - b. For this year to date we have collected about \$26,000: about 16.5 for conference, about 8.5 for memberships, the rest donations and interest. The Montreal conference will lose a bit this year. Memberships fund PSUP, awards, and miscellaneous costs.

- c. The Society will have a carry-forward of about \$71,000 once this year's bills are paid. That is down from 80,000 last year, but we have already paid some journal support costs for next year.
- d. Twice per year I send Penn State UP a current membership list in order to mail the latest issue of the journal. I now include email addresses, so that PSUP can invite members to use JSTOR to have free electronic access to *Utopian Studies*. If you prefer not to receive these messages, send me a message and I can remove your email address.

11. **Membership report.** Gib presented for Brian Greenspan and reported that we currently have around 210-220 members on any given day. Phil as incoming Membership chair announced an ad-hoc committee on membership will discuss how to handle it.

12. **Nominating Committee:** Jennifer Wagner presented for Naomi Jacobs. Phil thanked Naomi for her four years of service as Nominations Chair. This year's slate includes the first Secretary-Archivist. Lyman moved, Claire seconded: motion approved. Brian as new Nominating Chair requested volunteers for future service.

2014-2015 SUS Steering Committee Membership and Nominees
(all nominations subject to vote in italics)

STEERING COMMITTEE

Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor, President/Chair (-2016)
Gib Prettyman, Treasurer
Peter Sands, Secretary-Archivist
Brian Greenspan, Chair, Nominating Committee (-2016)

Ex-Officio (with vote):
Nicole Pohl, Editor, *Utopian Studies*
Alex Hall, Editor, *Utopus Discovered*
Jill Belli, Web Site Liaison
Peter Sands, H-Net
Nathaniel Coleman, Awards Chair (-2015)
Phil Wegner, Membership Chair (-2016)
Christina Braid, Teaching Committee Chair (-2015)

Conference Chairs:

Brian Greenspan, 2014 Local Chair, Montreal (-2015)
Peter Sands, 2014 Program Chair, Montreal (-2015)
Cliff Manlove, 2015 Local Chair, Pittsburgh, PA (-2016)
Clint Jones, 2015 Program Chair, Pittsburgh, PA (-2016)

At-Large Members:

Justin Nordstrom (-2015)
Beate Rodewald (-2015)
Dominic Ording (-2016)
Corina Kesler (-2016)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Brian Greenspan, Chair (-2016)
Beate Rodewald (-2015)
Justin Nordstrom (-2015)

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Nathaniel Coleman, Chair (-2015)

Ruth Levitas (-2015)
Lyman Sargent (-2017)
Mark Tabone (-2017)
Sonja Fritzsche (-2017)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Phil Wegner, Chair, Membership (-2016)
Cliff Manlove, 2015 Local Chair
Clint Jones, 2015 Program Chair
Nicole Pohl, Editor of *Utopian Studies*
Gib Prettyman, Treasurer
Peter Sands, Secretary-archivist
Stephanie Boluk (-2015)

TEACHING COMMITTEE

Christina Braid, Chair (-2016)
Ken Roemer (-2016)
Jill Belli (-2016)

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

Arthur O. Lewis Award:

Graham Jensen, "Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Dispossessed*, Exile, and the Kunstlerroman Tradition"

Eugenio Battisti Award for the best article in *Utopian Studies*:

Samuel Gerald Collins, "Train to Pyongyang: Imagination, Utopia, and Korean Unification," published in *Utopian Studies* 24, no. 1 (2013).

Larry E. Hough Distinguished Service Award

Carrie Hintz, Queens College and The Graduate Center/CUNY
Alex MacDonald, Campion College, University of Regina

Lyman Tower Sargent Distinguished Award:

Marc Angenot, McGill University (emeritus)

Graham, Alex, and Carrie received their awards. Peter Fitting introduced Marc Angenot, who reflected on the rise of science fiction studies, SUS, and *SFS*.

14. **Teaching Committee:** Carrie Hintz presented the Kenneth M. Roemer Innovative Course Design Award to Regina. Incoming chair Christina Braid invited submissions for next year and plans to put more stuff on the teaching page of our website.

Kenneth M. Roemer Innovative Course Design Award: Regina Martin, Denison University, "Utopian Fiction | Utopian Practice"

15. **New Business:** Phil spoke about his experiences in the Society and passed the Presidential torch to Jennifer. Jennifer spoke and thanked Phil. She urged people to come back and be involved.

16. **New Business from the floor:** Marc brought copies of his books. Lakey spoke about activism at Florida State and invited members to become involved and to wear the red square as a show of solidarity.

Meeting adjourned