

## **Society for Utopian Studies Business Meeting Minutes**

43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Berkeley, CA

11/3/2018

1. Welcome by Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor, President
  - Thanks to Andrew Byers and Elizabeth Schreiber-Byers for being program chairs again.
2. Approval of 2017 Business Meeting Minutes
3. Berkeley Conference Report (Ellen Rigsby, Elizabeth Schreiber-Byers and Andrew Byers)
  - Ellen explained that even though it costs a lot to rent the space of the Clark Kerr Center and to cover AV costs and food, the conference fees covered the costs and this is a sustainable model. People should let Pete Sands know if they live in a place that would be good for hosting a conference.
  - There were 118 individual papers, 3 roundtable panels, 13 full panels and 3 artistic presentations. There were some people who dropped out. We ended up with about 136 presentations total, which is a significant increase over last year.
  - Where We Have Been/Where We Are report (statistics on SUS meetings): People were allowed to self-report for the first time, so some self-reported in multiple categories. People were allowed to self-identify in gender categories or opt out for the first time. This is the first time since 2001 that female-identifying presenters made up the majority (at 51%). 42% of the papers were on under-represented or minority authors/cultures/issues.
4. *Utopian Studies* journal report (Nicole Pohl, reported by Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor)
  - There are 3 issues a year. Since there were too many special issues before, we now have 1 special issue per year. We are no longer paying for the assistant editor, so now we have work-experience students who will get credit for this and we are in the black. Nicole wants a book review editor, so if anyone wants to do that, they should tell Jennifer. Some themes for upcoming issues are race, fashion and Nordic utopias. We are accessible via JSTOR and Muse and on 2 European assessment lists. There were 98 submissions this year and of them 28% were accepted. The journal is doing well, it's still with Penn State UP, and please submit articles.
5. Internet Presence report (Jill Belli, reported by Peter Sands)
  - Jill edits the website and maintains the FaceBook page. Brian Greenspan manages the Twitter account. There are 1000 followers on FB and 900-1000 members on H-Net (Peter is in charge of H-Net).
6. Treasurer's report (Gib Prettyman)
  - There are details about the finances in 2018 on the Income Statement handout. However, the sheet does not reflect the conference costs so far. The income streams are: membership, conference fees, and royalties. Membership brought in \$6000 and it covers the cost of running the journal and the conference fees covered the conference. Ellen got 4k of support from St. Mary's College. Royalties from the journal come in at around 4k for the last 3 years. They make money from electronic subscriptions so make sure your students download articles from the Utopian Studies journal directly themselves. We got \$500 of donations for the LaRose funds. We awarded 3 for \$1500

(the conference fees covered the remaining amount). Gib tells us about the continuing membership button.

7. Membership Report (Phil Wegner)

- It is year 3 of the Utopian 500 project that we established for membership. This will continue this upcoming year so we want to contact people from the past and encourage them to sustain their membership, even if they can't attend. Elizabeth says we need to integrate the web portal for membership and we will work on that.

8. Nominations Report (Brian Greenspan)

- Brian introduces everyone and their positions. The slate is accepted unanimously. People can email Corina Kessler (who will take over as chair) if they want to nominate themselves for something in the future and ask her or Brian about what the responsibilities entail. Elizabeth and Andrew will be the program chairs again in 2019.
- Peter thanks everyone.

9. Awards (Mark Tabone, reported by Jennifer Wagner)

- Awards read out loud and recipients acknowledged.
- Teaching award: Ellen gives the award to someone teaching utopian literature in a class and evaluates the syllabus. The recipient is Laurence Davis at University of Cork in Ireland.

10. New Business (Peter Sands)

- Pete indicates the locations for the SUS meeting for the next 2 years. Sonja invites everyone to Michigan State University in East Lansing on Oct. 17-19, 2019 and in 2020 it's in Charleston on Nov 12-15 (\$179, right downtown, themed Make, Unmake, Remake).