

Polanyi Society Board Meeting Minutes

Annual Board Meeting – Virtual Format

October 9, 2021

Members present: Collin Barnes, Ellen Bernal, Jean Bocharova, Jon Fennell, Charlie Lowney, Phil Mullins (presiding), David Nikkel, Bruce Vojak

Guests: Gabor Biro (nominated for next term), Gus Breystack (proxy for Esther Meek), Andrew Grosso (proxy for Collin Barnes when he had to step out), Paul Lewis (proxy for Andy Steiger)

1. Welcome

Phil called the meeting to order at 11:00 am Central Daylight Savings time.

2. Approval of Polanyi Society Board Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2020 Virtual Format Meeting

The minutes were accepted with a minor change on page 1, item # 3 2020 Treasurer's Report, fourth bullet ("spend 3% of the equivalent of" to "spend 3% or the equivalent of").

3. 2021 Treasurer's Report

Charlie submitted his report for discussion by the Board.

Charlie provided a summary of the written report he submitted, indicating that Polanyi Society (hereafter PS) finances are doing reasonably well, staying in the black. In particular, he noted that operating revenue was lower this year due to loss of library subscriptions to *Tradition and Discovery* (hereafter TAD) while operating expenses were lower due to TAD's transition to an electronic-only format. Expenses were also lower due to David Stewart stepping back from his editorial role and thus, not being paid. David has taken a leave of absence. Donations also have helped PS cover costs this year and the endowment grew by over \$40,000.

Phil noted that the PS's attorney indicated that the society should spend approximately 3% to 5% of its endowment annually (which currently amounts to roughly \$7,000 to \$11,000).

4. 2021 Membership Report

Jon submitted his report for discussion by the Board.

Jon noted that the number of dues-paying PS members has declined and raised the question as to whether we need more reminders. Subsequent discussion included consideration of whether to use the TAD mailing list (~800 people) for reminders, as well as making it easier to pay dues.

Action Item: Modify language at link to PayPal site to clarify what is meant by "Donate" as it applies to payment of dues.

– Jon submitted the Action Item.

- **No conclusive decision was taken on this proposed Action Item.**

Motion: The Board approves an increase in the standard membership rate from \$35 to \$55/year. Membership for students remains at \$15/year.

- Phil submitted the Motion. Paul (for Andy) seconded the Motion.
- Jon expressed his reservations, wondering whether some number of members feel that they have lost something essential when TAD went virtual.
- Charlie moved to table this motion.
- **The Motion was tabled.**

As part of the larger discussion of PS membership, an initial discussion of the PS web site emerged. Jean and Bruce agreed to discuss the use of WordPress for the PS web site after the Board Meeting.

5. 2021 TAD Report

Paul submitted his report for discussion by the Board.

Paul thanked both Phil and Walt for jumping in to help on TAD during David's absence.

Motion: Continue working with Faithlab.

- Paul submitted the Motion. Charlie seconded the Motion.
- **The Motion was carried.**

6. 2021 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee submitted its report for discussion by the Board.

David Nikkel was thanked for his service to the Board.

Motion: Elect Gabor Biro to a first three-year term on the Board commencing in 2022. Elect Bruce Vojak to a second three-year term commencing in 2022. Elect Esther Meek to a third three-year term commencing in 2022. Recognize Jean Bocharova as an ex officio Board member commencing in 2022.

- The Nominating Committee submitted the Motion.
- **The Motion was carried.**

7. 2021 Zoom Presentations/Discussions Report

Discussion focused on types of Zoom presentations that might prove useful and not necessarily conflicting with the Nashotah meeting, such as tutorials. Another suggestion would be to convene a reading group, such as a series on *Personal Knowledge*.

Discussion returned to the PS web site and the use of WordPress.

8. 2021 Web Site Committee Report

Phil noted that the situation regarding the PS website is more complicated than most people seem to recognize. There is already in hand a partially completed PS website-revision artifact that was put together (over the course of a couple of pre-pandemic years with some supervision from him) by the web professional who was a staff member at his university. The link for this site was earlier sent to the Board for review. This re-design project, initiated **before** the Board decision last year to create an independent TAD website, was abandoned during the pandemic; it likely cannot be picked back up after the pandemic due to changes in staffing at the university. The PS likely will need either to hire a web designer or create the new TAD website ourselves. Jean Bocharova is now working on this but there have been difficulties getting things set up.

The redesigned (but only partially completed) pre-pandemic website artifact joins (1) a top level done in WordPress with (2) some of the HTML code (interfaced with pdf) for existing website components such as the extensive TAD Archives (e.g., 50 years of TAD issues). This partially completed website redesign artifact is stored (and still accessible) on the GoDaddy server in GoDaddy space that the PS **already** rents and uses to make the existing PS website operative. Components of this abandoned redesign project could be used for new website design projects. The GoDaddy storage space (where this abandoned redesign project resides) is the **same** location in which any new TAD website will be built, using the free enhanced copy of WordPress that GoDaddy provides as a service to renters like the PS. This is also the **same** storage space in which any new TAD website artifact will be made operative. Eventually, the PS hopes to have an operating TAD website as well as an operating independent PS website and both will be in GoDaddy space that the PS rents. The existing PS website must be re-designed **after** a new TAD website is created, and, clearly, some things currently on the PS website will appear only on the new TAD website. The new TAD website must be created with the guidelines of the Directory of Open Access Journals (which has approved the existing PS website statements about TAD) in mind.

Discussion ensued regarding this complicated situation.

9. 2021 Endowment Committee Report

Covered earlier as part of the 2021 Treasurer's Report.

10. New Business: 2022 Nashotah House Conference

Andrew reviewed the proposed schedule, a pro forma budget, and potential topics.

Motion: Andrew Grosso is authorized to spend up to \$4000 of the Special Projects and Travel Fund (current balance \$5415.97) to support the June 2022 Nashotah Conference.

- Phil submitted the Motion. Charlie seconded the Motion.
- **The Motion was carried.**

Discussion ensued regarding how to determine if this meeting will be viable due to COVID. Andrew suggested taking the pulse of early and initial registrations, using this information to decide by late March / early April.

Discussion continued to consider holding a formal or informal Board meeting at Nashotah. No decision was made, deferring it to later.

11. New Business: 2022 Annual Meeting at Denver AAR meeting in November 2022

Phil noted that the PS bylaws “require” an annual meeting. Phil raised the question as to whether we should do so at the AAR, whether the Nashotah meeting could be considered to fill this role, or something else.

A decision was made to forgo PS participation in the AAR meeting for 2022.

Phil noted that Walt Gulick has been program committee chair for several years and has asked to step down from this role. Phil asked for someone to reach out to him if they are interested and willing to assume this responsibility.

12. New Business: Compensation for TAD Editor and Book Review Editor

Phil raised the question as

Motion: The Board authorizes a renewal (and budget increase from \$5,000 to \$8,000) of stipends for the TAD Editor and Book Review Editor. The two editors and the executive committee will work out the details.

- David submitted the Motion. Paul (for Andy) seconded the Motion.
- Phil noted that the entire 2021 budget for these stipends was not spent (due to David’s leave of absence) and that additional fund raising is worth considering. Discussion also revolved around the fact that the TAD Editor role is being temporarily shared by three volunteers, Paul, Walt and Phil.
- Charlie amended the Motion to clarify that “up to” \$8,000 would be spent this year. Paul (for Andy) seconded the Motion.
- **The Motion was carried.**

13. New Business: Strategic Planning

Gus suggested exploring “what’s next” for PS, along the lines of what has been raised by Andrew. He also raised questions about increasing digital content.

Regarding digital content, Jean suggested having a small group explore where the web site stands and what potential it holds.

Phil called the meeting to a close at 1:15 pm Central Daylight Savings time.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce A. Vojak
December 31, 2021