Minutes of the Society for Ricoeur Studies Annual Meeting

October 15, 2008

Call to Order: President George Taylor

Introduction of Officers and Directors

George Taylor introduced the Officers and Directors: George Taylor, President; Dan Stiver, Vice-President; Roger Savage, Secretary-Treasurer; Scott Davidson (not present), Editor; John Arthos, Webmaster; David Pellauer, Director; Molly Mann, Director.

George thanked David Fisher for counting the votes for the recent election of Officers and Directors. George also thanked the other candidates for being willing to contribute to the Society’s organization.

Old Business:

A. Society Incorporation:

George provided a brief history of the past year’s activities with respect to the Society’s incorporation as a non-profit organization. Several members of the Society worked on preparing initial drafts of the bylaws, and an attorney specializing in nonprofits reviewed these drafts. The attorney also help the Society qualify for its non-profit status. The Society paid $2500 in legal fees, which is one-third of the normal fee for such legal services. The Society paid another $1115 in other fees, $750 of which was paid to the IRS for tax exemption. The Society currently has a budget deficit, and George indicated that donations to the Society are welcome

George explained that the Society’s non-profit status provides an incentive to support the Ricoeur archive in France. In order to qualify for a tax exemption, donations have to go through a US non-profit organization. Receiving non-profit status from the IRS was therefore a major achievement for the Society, and will help the Society pursue one of its missions—to support the Ricoeur archive.

B. Website:

The Society website is up and running. The address is [www.ricoeursociety.org](http://www.ricoeursociety.org) . The website will be developing over time, and will include online membership. One of the objectives is to put the abstracts from prior conferences on line. The Society also intends to develop an online journal. George welcomed other suggestions as to how to best take advantage of the Society’s website.

New Business:

A. Announcements:

1. George thanked the program panel committee for this year’s conference. The panel was led by Dan Stiver. The committee members were Adam Graves, Greg Hoskins, Rebecca Huskey, Todd Mei, Tim Maddox, Molly Mann, Scott O'Leary, Roger Savage, and John Starkey.

2. The Ricoeur conference in Belgium was in two weeks, and several Society members were to present papers. The Society is attempting to cultivate international contacts.

3. Graduate Student Award: The prize for this year’s best student paper is $250. Papers are to be sent to Dan Stiver, who will convene a committee to review the submitted papers and to award the prize. The winner of the Graduate Student Award will be announced by email.

4. A listserv will be developed to facilitate communications.

B. Discussion Items:

1. Next year’s conference: The question was raised whether the Society should meet with SPEP and AAR and alternate years. This issue has been raised and discussed in previous years. One suggestion was posed that next year the Society meet after SPEP so the Society’s meeting would overlap with the Environmental Conference. George asked whether we need to have a longer conference. Is a day and a half enough? Should we meet Saturday and/or Sunday? Another question concerning next year’s conference was whether the papers could be made available ahead of time. One suggestion was that papers could be posted on a password protected part of the Society’s website. The Directors will consider all these suggestions.

2. Dues and fees: The existing structure of the conference was discussed. There was a general consensus that the current dues and fee structure was appropriate.

3. Bylaws: There were no changes proposed to the current bylaws.

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4. Directors: George raised the question as to whether there should be a further expansion of directors to better represent different constituencies. The sentiment at the time of the meeting was that there was no need to increase the number of directors currently on the board.

5. The work of the society: George asked what might be done to improve the work of the society.

a) One suggestion was that a conference session be devoted to teaching Ricoeur, as occurred at last year’s meeting. Such a session could be conducted biannually, with a pedagogical emphasis on practical application of Ricoeur’s work.

b) It was suggested that someone get feedback on the different panels at this year’s conference. (It was suggested that the Society use “surveymonkey” to help create an interactive survey.)

c) It was proposed that next year’s conference might also include roundtable discussion, perhaps focused on a particular passage from Ricoeur’s work.

d) It was also suggested that, for international submissions to next year’s conference, the program committee make a special effort to accommodate non-English native speaking applications in order to ensure the best- and widest-possible representation.

Charles Reagan offered our debt to George for all he has done for the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. H. Savage

Secretary-Treasurer