Minutes of the Society for Ricoeur Studies Annual Meeting

October 22, 2011

Call to Order: President Dan Stiver

1. Minutes

Dan Stiver called for a motion to approve the minutes of last year’s business meeting. Moved, seconded and approved.

1. Introduction of Officers

Dan Stiver introduced the Offices and Directors: Dan Stiver, President; Roger Savage Vice-President and outgoing Secretary/Treasurer; Adam Graves, incoming Secretary/Treasurer (who was not able to attend this year); Scott Davidson, editor; John Arthos, webmaster (who was not able to attend this year); Molly Mann, director (who was recently married and was not able to attend this year); Todd Mei director and European liaison (who was not able to attend this year); David Pellauer, director; Charles Reagan, director (who was not able to attend this year).

1. Financial report

Secretary/Treasurer Roger Savage reported on the financial health of the Society. Both this year’s conference and last year’s conference incurred deficits ($1062.17 this year, and $962.25 last year) due to the high cost of the conference’s hotel meeting rooms. Roger elaborated on the Society’s ongoing annual expenses, which include: Domain name registration (currently $83.76 per year); Website hosting fees ($144 for the past year, and expected to rise to $168 for next year); bank charges (currently $228 per year) and the Graduate Student award ($250). Conference costs this year included the keynote speaker’s honorarium ($500), meeting rooms and coffee service ($3567.56). Conference fees have been kept relatively low in order to encourage members’ participation; membership dues have been used to subsidize the conference. Members generally are only paying dues when they are attending the conference (see IV. B. below).

1. Old Business
2. Past year’s activities
   1. Post-conference: Dan Stiver announced that a post-conference survey will be sent out again this year.
   2. Dan Stiver reported that the Moscow Conference held at the Higher School of Economics from September 13-16 went well. The conference was organized by Anna Borisenkova, who defended her dissertation yesterday (October 21). A motion was made for the Society to send kudos to Anna congratulating her on the success of the Moscow conference and on the completion of her doctorate.
   3. Graduate student award. Dan Stiver announced that Patrick Gamez was the recipient of the 2010 Graduate Student award for the best student paper presented at last year’s conference. Patrick received a certificate of achievement and a $250 check.
3. Membership

Roger Savage reported that members tend to pay membership dues only when they are attending the conference. He encouraged members to pay dues regularly to support the work of the Society, and to encourage other members to do the same.

1. Journal

Editor Scott Davidson reported first on the status of the journal *Études Ricoeuriennes/Ricoeur Studies*. The “good news” is that publications are coming out. Scott elaborated on recent and forthcoming issues: the first issue appeared in December 2010; the 2nd issue was guest edited by Gonçalo Marcelo; the 3rd through 5th issues are in the planning stage. The 3rd issue will be in Spanish and Portuguese; the 4th issue, which is to appear next summer, will be guest edited by Anna Borisenkova. The 5th issue will be devoted to articles by theologians in Japan and Korea. Scott announced that each issue will also include a Varia.

Scott reported that there have been 294 registered readings of the journal. He also reported that there were 50 article submissions over the past year and a half, as well as an impressive number of downloads of articles: 700 is the highest number of downloads for an article; other article downloads ranges from 200-700. These figures do not include articles pulled up on searches.

Scott also commented on the international scope of contributors: 14 countries are represented so far.

Scott also reported that there was a need for more members to register with the journal (the “bad news”).

George Taylor reminded members that the journal has open access (<http://ricoeur.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/ricoeur>).

1. Lexington Series

Dan reported that Lexington Press has provided a five-year contract for 2 to 5 books per year on Ricoeur and encouraged submissions.

1. Relations with the Fonds Ricoeur

George Taylor reported on the new *Association Paul Ricoeur*. George, David Pellauer, and Richard Kearney met with Catherine Goldenstein, curator of the Fonds Ricoeur, at the meeting in Lisbon last year to get a sense of the *Association Paul Ricoeur*’s intended relationships with the Society for Ricoeur Studies. George, Dan Stiver, David Pellauer, and Scott Davidson discussed this issue again with Olivier Abel in Moscow. Olivier made clear that the main function of the *Association* is fund raising in support of the Fonds Ricoeur. The *Association* is also designed to show to the French public the non-academic side of Ricoeur. A session on the current European economic crisis is to be held later this fall for this purpose. Olivier stated that the various groups pursuing Ricoeur studies can maintain their autonomy at the same time that they will ideally cultivate close contacts with the *Association*. Also, a number of members visited the Fonds Ricoeur this past year, and more were encouraged to go.

David Pellauer explained that the *Association* bylaws specify both individual and group membership. An annual group membership is 45 euros. David moved that the Society take out a group membership. Seconded and approved.

1. New Business
2. Digitization Project

George announced that the Society and the Fonds Ricoeur were trying to find ways to place online primary material by and secondary material on Ricoeur,which goal should also support developing an international community of Ricoeur scholars . One option is for the Fonds Ricoeur to archive the French material and the Society to archive the English material, but it would be preferable for one archive to be created to support both languages as well as other languages in which work on or by Ricoeur has appeared. Kelly Cooper has proposed two general types of models for digitization. One option is to archive materials through the University of Pittsburgh’s University Library System (ULS). The e-commerce model is another option.

Kelly remarked that the members should weigh these options not only in terms of a business model but also in terms of a philosophy of caring for Ricoeur’s materials and legacy. The technology, she stated, is not an issue.

1. ULS provides open access; it is also open source, so there is free access to archived materials. The positives: Pittsburgh’s ULS provides free software and technical support. The negatives: open access resource is so massive that there are only a couple of organizations that can handle large archives. Over time a number of universities, such as Stanford, have gone from independent archives to partnering the archive with Google, which may lead to a loss of the archives’ independence. Going with ULS might mean that an entity such as Google could eventually come to play a role in the way materials are accessed or distributed.
2. If the Society and the Fonds Ricoeur decide not to go with ULS, they will have full control over the archived material and content. XML has changed the way of archiving. Pdf articles have to be read to determine the relevant keywords. XML provides a full search of the document, so there is no need for keywords. The archived material would not be in a subdomain of a University, so it could be included in top-tier search results. This option has the ability to make money. Single article downloads could typically cost 99 cents, and there could be tiered subscription memberships, for example, founding membership, faculty membership, and student/adjunct membership.
3. Independent of the decision about digitization is the decision about a scanning protocol. XML has changed the process of archiving. Pdf articles have to be read to determine the relevant keywords. XML, by contrast, provides a full search of the document, so there is no need for keywords. XML is also multi-lingual. The biggest advantage of scanning the material in this way would be the ability of subsequent readers accessing the archive to determine the parameters of search requests. Scanning is faster with cameras, which would need to be properly set up. The negative (downside) would be that it takes time to do the scanning.
4. Kelly concluded by recommending that we take time to think about interface design and access so that we establish a seamless process of scanning and digitization. It would be optimal for the interface to be designed by scholars for scholars. Kelly also pointed out that XML is multi-lingual.

George asked for feedback, and requested that the members contact Kelly or him.

1. Bylaw Change

Moved: that two director positions in next year’s election be extended a year for three year terms this one time only. Rationale: to stagger the rotation of directors on the board. Seconded and approved.

1. Announcements
2. Student prize. The Society will award a prize for the best Graduate Student paper at this year’s conference. A mailing will be sent out to all graduate student conference participants with information on how to apply for consideration.
3. The 2012 conference will be held November 1-3 in Rochester, New York in conjunction with SPEP. Dan announced that SPEP will be meeting the following year at the University of Oregon, October 24-26, 2013.
4. The conference in Brazil will be held in Rio de Janeiro, November 28-30, 2011 at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Fenando Nascimento has played a key role in planning the conference.
5. A centennial conference will be held at the Fonds Ricoeur during November 2013.
6. Planning for a European conference for 2012 is proceeding in Italy.
7. The Centennial for the World Philosophical Congress will be held August 4-10, 2013, in Athens, Greece; Peter Kemp is working on a session on Ricoeur in French.
8. New scholarship
   1. John Arthos, *Speaking Hermeneutically*
   2. Molly Mann, *Ricoeur, Rawls, and Capability Justice*
   3. Michael Sohn, *The Concept of Recognition in Levinas’ Thought*
   4. Farhang Erfani, ed., *The Aesthetics of Autonomy:* [*Ricœur and Sartre on Emancipation, Authenticity, and Selfhood*](http://www.amazon.com/Aesthetics-Autonomy-Emancipation-Authenticity-Selfhood/dp/0739112589/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1319818803&sr=1-1)
   5. Farhang Erfani, Lorenzo Altieri, Pamela Anderson, and Patrick Bourgeois, *Paul Ricoeur:* *Honoring and Continuing the Work*
   6. Francis J. Mootz III and George Taylor, eds., *Gadamer and Ricoeur: Critical Horizons for Contemporary Hermeneutics*
   7. Todd Mei, ed., *From Ricoeur to Action*
   8. David Pellauer and John Starkey, trans., Paul Ricoeur, *Being, Essence, and Substance in Plato and Aristotle*
   9. Dan Stiver, *Ricoeur and Theology*

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. H. Savage

Secretary-Treasurer