

ACADEMY OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING/RÉUNION ANNUELLE GÉNÉRALE

Four Points Sheraton, Kingston
Saturday November 19, 2016 at 9:15 am

MINUTES – PROCÈS VERBAL

Meeting called to order at 9:15 am by Irving Abella, President.

1. Introduction

President Irving Abella welcomed all Fellows in attendance and offered congratulations to New Fellows and to Medal and Award Winners Françoise Baylis (McNeil Medal), Michael Behiels (J. B. Tyrrell Medal, Lorraine Code (Ursula Franklin Award in Gender Studies), Jenna Healey (Alice Wilson Award) and Linda Hutcheon (Lorne Pierce Medal).

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by André Lapierre, seconded by Michael Behiels
Approved

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting (November 28, 2015)

Moved by Gregory Kealy, seconded by Jean Grondin
Approved

4. Business arising from the Minutes

9. a) Bulletin

Ian Lancashire suggested that a methodological shift towards online communication might enhance outreach and reduce expenses. Gary Libben enthusiastically offered to create an e-bulletin and Jean Grondin, together with Mathieu Marion, offered to assume responsibility for the Francophone component of the bulletin. In parallel, Robert Stainton will create an Academy of the Arts and Humanities blog. A discussion followed on how the development of electronic communication would create a unique opportunity to enhance outreach and, importantly, better integration of Western Canada and indigenous peoples. Françoise Baylis suggested that Academy 1 take the responsibility of working with the other two Academies on the theme of Indigeneity.

9. b) Annual Symposium

Irving Abella reported that there will be no RSC Symposium next year, but that the University of Manitoba intends to organize a symposium around the Canada 150th Anniversary celebrations. It was suggested that a three-way partnership involving the University of Manitoba, the RSC and First Nations be considered, and that the theme of the symposium should focus on Indigeneity, particularly as the TRC archives are housed at the University of Manitoba. Chad Gaffield noted that we have the talent and should tap into our membership, rather than rely on speakers that would require funding to be brought in. Chad will bring the suggestion of a partnered Winnipeg symposium to the attention of the RSC President and Council and expressed his optimism about U. of Manitoba's David Barnard's openness to such a partnership. A committee will be formed and Fellows are invited to submit their names to participate in the planning of the symposium.

With respect to the theme of the crisis in the Humanities, Irving Abella pointed out that a series of sessions could be held during the year, e.g., in Montreal, Ottawa and Western Canada.

5. Report of the Academy President

Israel Symposia

The first Canada-Israel Symposium on Brain Plasticity, Learning, and Education was held two years ago at the University of Western Ontario . The second, entitled "Literature and History: a Look from the Margins" will be held in Jerusalem in December. The third will be organized in two years by Academy 2 and will be held in Canada.

Irving Abella voiced his concern about the fact that not all members pay their dues and that we need to develop a policy on what to do in such cases. Members are invited to report back on the practices of other academies. Allan Bell indicated that Division 2 has a category of membership that may be unable to pay their dues and would therefore require a separate understanding. Diana Nemiroff felt that we are too passive and that we should be sending out mailers.

Committee membership

Another problem raised is that we appear to be always searching for members to serve on our committees. Jean Grondin brought up the issue of streamlining committees. Chad Gaffield insisted that we need to feel completely confident in the way that we undertake the process and asked that this be made a priority. Bonnie Campbell indicated that she would like to receive information on the committees (terms, responsibilities, etc.). Irving Abella will send this out. Members who would like to volunteer to serve on Academy committees are invited to submit their names to the Academy Secretary.

6. Report of the Academy Secretary

Gonia Jarema thanked Marie-Lyne, Irving and Ian for their assistance in the task of finding candidates for the committees' vacant positions.

The Minutes of the Academy Council's conference call meeting of October 31 were presented.

7. Report of Division Directors

Division 1 (Ian Lancashire)

A written report was submitted to the Academy Secretary and is copied below:

The Humanities division of Academy 1 has about 350 fellows from 46 institutions and a dozen disciplines, amounting to fifteen percent of RSC fellows, who represent five percent of full-time teaching staff at Canadian institutions.

The Humanities Committee for the Selection of New Fellows in 2016 received 51 nominations for ranking. The top 14 or 28 percent were recommended to stand for election to Academy 1. The committee had eight Fellows. They included Richard Burgess (Classics, Ottawa), Diana Brydon (English, Manitoba), Gwendolyn Davies (English, UNB), Peter Pope (Archaeology, Memorial), Laurence Ricou (English, UBC), Patricia Roy (History, Victoria), Jonathan Vance (History, Western), and myself. We came from four disciplines, and from seven institutions coast to coast. Three of us were women and five were men.

Committee members received the 51 nominations in February. We agreed to abstain from ranking any nominee with whom we had worked or who had an appointment at our own institution. (Because Fellows on the Selection Committee are sometimes perceived, informally, to represent their own institutions, which are normally also members of RSC, a potential conflict of interest exists. Institutional members are not eligible for membership on the Selection Committee.) All nominations were meritorious. After committee members submitted their rankings, RSC produced a collective ranking of nominations so that the Fellows could determine a final ranking. This year our teleconference took place in early March. Fellows spent about three hours reviewing the results, with special attention to nominees ranked between tenth and twentieth. Everyone was free to change or to maintain her or his rankings, even should they be markedly different from others. We unanimously recommended the final top 14 ranked nominations to RSC and agreed that the position of a nominee on the ranked list was not important. There is no difference between nominees ranked first and fourteenth.

We experienced one difficulty: how to rank an Aboriginal nominee whose achievements were largely oral and unarchived. In 2017 I will circulate to committee members SSHRC's "Key Concepts for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research," which states that "Indigenous or traditional knowledge, according to Chapter 9 of the TCPS2, 'is usually described by Aboriginal Peoples as holistic, involving body, mind, feelings and spirit' (p.108). Indigenous knowledge is rarely acquired through written documents, but, rather, a worldview adopted

through living, listening and learning in the ancestral languages and within the contexts of living on the land." SSHRC recommends that "elders and community-based partners need to be recognized and respected in terms of their contribution of knowledge assets." The committee has recommended that RSC advise both nominators and committee members, when preparing and ranking future nominations, to keep in mind what SSHRC advises in "Key Concepts."

This coming year our Division Committee for the Selection of New Fellows has five returning members: Patricia Roy (as secretary), Gwendolyn Davies, Jonathan Vance, Peter Pope, and myself. Our three new members are Michael Peterman (English, Trent), Bernard Linsky (Philosophy, Alberta), and Lydia White (Linguistics, McGill). I want to thank them all for agreeing to undertake the toughest adjudication they will ever have to do.

Let me close in thanking Marie-Lyne Renaud (Manager, RSC Fellowship and Awards) for her wonderful support this year. I depended on her time and again, and she always came through with grace.

Ian Lancashire

Division 2 (Jean Grondin)

Jean Grondin souhaite la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres de la Division. Dix candidatures ont été soumises pour l'année 2016 et quatre, plutôt que cinq, ont été retenues. Une discussion sur le nombre de candidatures s'ensuit. Jean Grondin se donne pour mandat d'insister auprès de tous les membres pour qu'ils proposent des candidatures et souligne que certaines universités, dont l'Université de Montréal, n'ont pas de Comité de présentation des candidatures. Michael Behiels mentionne que toutes les institutions francophones du pays (Moncton, Saint-Boniface, etc.) devraient être sollicitées.

Au chapitre des postes vacants, Les membres de la Division sont invités à donner leur nom s'il désirent faire partie d'un comité. Jean Grondin ajoute qu'il serait sage de passer à 4 au lieu de 5 membres pour le Comité des nominations et à 7 au lieu de 9 membres pour le Comité de sélection des nouveaux membres.

Division 3 (Allan Bell)

Allan Bell offered congratulations to the new Fellows of the Division: Nancy Dahn and Timothy Steeves of Duo Concertante, an award-winning ensemble that has been touring the world; Christian Bök an experimental poet who has been featured on CBC; Janine Marchessault, an acclaimed media scholar, who has curated numerous exhibitions; Daniel David Moses, a First Nations poet and playwright who participated in the 2016 National Aboriginal Day Celebration in Ottawa and had his play *Brebeuf's Ghost* presented this year at York University; and Craig Walker, a scholar in Canadian and world drama, who is the newly appointed Director of Queen's Dan School of Drama and Music.

Allan expressed his regret that Leonard Cohen had not been inducted to the Society. A discussion follows in which the Assembly was informed that the RSC Statutes' 3-year election window had passed. Jean Grondin propose de saisir le Conseil d'une demande de considération spéciale dans le cas de Leonard Cohen, eu égard au fait qu'il y avait un précédent, une exception ayant été faite dans le cas d'un member étranger.

Allan Bell put forward a motion to the effect that the Academy should bring the issue of Leonard Cohen to the attention of the RSC Council and ask for a special dispensation for him. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously. It was suggested that something should be said at the Gala and Irving Abella proposed to talk to Maryse LAssonde about it before the event.

Françoise Baylis proposed that the other two Divisions model Allan Bell's presentation of the new Fellows of Division 3 by also highlighting new members in the future. It was suggested that Allan's report be uploaded on our blog. Irving Abella added that the reports of the Division Chairs should also be on the blog.

8. Priorities and Program of actions of the Academy (2016-2017)

- a. Bulletin
Discussed under 4. 9. a)
- b. Medals and Awards
Members were invited to submit names.
- c. Campus gatherings
Discussed under 4. 9. b)
- d. Regional meetings
Christl Verduyn reported on the activities of the Atlantic Canada Chapter and informed the Assembly that over the past year 1 symposium had been held in each province, totalling 4 symposia. Ten open academies were also offered across 6 universities.
- e. Links with other RSC Academies, International programs, expert panels, College...
Jean Grondin propose que l'on réfléchisse à la relation entre l'Académie et le Collège.

9. Other Business

nil

10. Adjournment -

Proposed by Jean Grondin, seconded by Francois Baylis

Gonia Jarema, Academy Secretary