RSC SRC

Draft Minutes - Annual Meeting of the Academy of Arts and Humanities

November 13, 2025

1. Opening & Administrative Items

- Sheila Embleton opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and introduced support staff, recording tools, and voting via Slido.
- Agenda was approved after a vote, with no objections or abstentions recorded in the room.
- Minutes from the previous December meeting were approved following a standard vote process. `
- Technical voting issues with Slido were noted during approvals.

2. Academic Presentations (New Fellows)

Gordon Campbell (University of Leicester)

- Presented research on the King James Bible as a historical and annotated text, focusing on translation practices and scholarly gaps in its study as a physical book.
- Discussed linguistic complexity of translators and the theological and cultural implications of translation choices and iconography in the Bible's title page. `

Hannah Claus (Concordia University)

- Presented Indigenous artistic practice centered on wampum belts as living treaties and mnemonic systems tied to territory and relational governance.
- Described installations exploring rivers, treaty relationships, and Indigenous epistemologies through textile, digital, and participatory works. `

Alison Glazebrook (Brock University)

- Focused on ancient Greek sexual labor systems, slavery, and gendered economic structures in Athens. `
- Introduced methodological approaches combining material culture, emotional labor theory, and critical fabulation to reconstruct enslaved experiences. `

Jonathan Kimmelman (McGill University)

- Examined ethics of drug development as a "moral economy," emphasizing patient/animal participation as a source of welfare, labor, and vulnerability.
- Proposed "moral efficiency" in clinical research design, focusing on maximizing knowledge gained per ethical cost.

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Jacqueline Murray (University of Guelph)

- Analyzed medieval masculinity through intersecting concepts of vulnerability, variability, and virility using embodied historical examples. `
- Highlighted cultural and institutional pressures shaping male embodiment, including medical, legal, and social practices around sexuality and impotence.

3. Reports & Governance Updates

- Membership outreach initiative showed slight increase in nominations but highlighted challenges including limited engagement from independent artists and smaller institutions.
- Discussion noted structural barriers such as administrative capacity and lack of institutional support for nomination processes. `
- Decision: continuation of outreach initiative was supported, with interest in ongoing coordination among members.

4. Strategic Discussion & Academy Direction

- Division reports indicated stable or slightly increased nominations, with emphasis on maintaining geographic and institutional diversity.
- CV and nomination quality issues were discussed, with guidance introduced instead of rigid standardization to balance inclusivity and clarity.
- Incoming president James Grier outlined priority for expanded outreach to defend and promote humanities and arts amid institutional pressures and funding challenges.
- Proposed engagement strategies included partnerships with cultural organizations, public events, and increased visibility of Academy affiliations.

5. Closing

- General discussion included ideas for improving outreach visibility (e.g., use of postnomials and public recognition strategies). `
- Meeting concluded with formal motion to adjourn, which was approved.

Action Items

- **Outreach / Membership Initiative** – Sheila Embleton to collect interested participants and coordinate continuation of the nomination outreach initiative
- **Program Input (Next Year Activities)** – Members to send suggestions for future engagement formats and programming to Jim Grier
- **RSC Dialogues (Next Year)** – Jim Grier to organize the upcoming series of dialogues at Walter House in Ottawa