

## **NASPH Business Meeting Minutes**

**Sheraton Baltimore North, Sponsored by Goucher College, Towson, MD**

**Saturday September 16, 2017 1:30-2:30pm**

**Prepared by Dan Tate, NASPH Secretary**

1. Alejandro Vallega, NASPH President, expressed his thanks to all the participants for a great conference. He also thanked John Rose, the Goucher College host, for all of his efforts coordinating the conference events with the Sheraton Baltimore North.

2. Lawrence Schmidt, NASPH Treasurer, provided a financial report for 2016-17. (See the accompanying addendum for a full breakdown of income, expenses, and assets.) Along with the thirty conference registrants for the 2016 conference, thirty people also paid membership dues. An additional ten people later paid membership dues in order to participate in the election held in January of this year. Lawrence noted the additional expense due to the user fees that paypal charges to NASPH. It was pointed out that paypal can be set up so that the user fee is charged to the payer, thereby relieving NASPH of this expense. (Later it was determined that this is not possible, although one could set a specific shipping fee.) It was thought that those using paypal would not mind paying the fee for the convenience.

Lawrence indicated that NASPH's Income and expenses for this year's meeting have yet to be tallied. John Rose estimated the overall cost to Goucher College for the conference events of 2017 (refreshments, reception, and supplemental banquet expenses) to be around \$3800. This contribution was made possible by the support of the Ruth A. Katz Fund and the Philosophy Department of Goucher College. On behalf of NASPH, the Executive Committee expressed its gratitude for this support.

3. Dan Tate, NASPH Secretary, observed that he is at the end of his term in this position and will be cycling off the NASPH Executive Committee. He thanked the EC and members of NASPH for their support and expressed his pleasure at being able to serve the organization over the past three years.

Dan introduced Cynthia Nielsen (University of Dallas) who has agreed to accept the nomination of the EC for the position as NASPH Secretary. After an open period for further nominations, an election will be held next month.

He also reported on this year's program: there were five invited speakers and six other speakers selected from the fifteen papers submitted. In addition, there was an invited panel with five participants.

4. The meeting then turned to the upcoming venues for our annual conferences. Next year NASPH will be held at Northern Central College in Naperville, Illinois (outside of Chicago). Greg Lynch, the host and onsite coordinator, has secured slightly under \$3000 of support from the college. He mentioned that a block of twenty rooms can be reserved at the hotel recently erected across the street from the campus. There is a new academic building as well in which to hold the meetings. Greg also pointed out that the campus is served by two airports: O'Hare and Midway. We also discussed possible dates for the conference in September, but this remained undecided.

The 2019 meeting will be hosted by Alejandro Vallega at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The EC will endeavor to secure conference sites at least two years ahead.

It was also recommended that the EC look into satellite sessions not just at SPEP but at the APA meetings as well. This past spring Dave Vessey organized a panel at the Central Division meeting of the APA around the recently published translation of Gadamer's essays entitled *Hermeneutics Between History and Philosophy*. We should continue to pursue these avenues.

5. A general discussion opened up regarding the planning for future conference programs. There were several suggestions made to include more graduate student involvement in NASPH. One such suggestion was to offer a Hans-Georg Gadamer Prize to the best graduate student paper submitted in a given year. The paper would not only be presented at the conference but would be published in *Epoché*. Another suggestion was to schedule (possibly) concurrent sessions where graduate students would present papers. Alternatively, a session of the conference could be devoted to graduate students to provide a summaries of their dissertation work for discussion. Another idea was to make graduate student papers available, whether on the website or by laying out multiple hard copies on a table for participants to peruse. It was also recommended that NASPH make greater use of social media in order to more effectively reach graduate students.

It was suggested that more work be done on the organization's website. This might include images of a various thinkers, for instance, that would quickly and visually convey the range of philosophers and movements we include within the scope of hermeneutical interest. It could also include a prominent statement of purpose, emphasizing dialogue and not just interpretation. (Perhaps NASPH's formal mission statement could bear some revision.) Alejandro indicated that he knows someone experienced at creating academic websites who could help work on the NASPH site. It was also pointed out that the identity of continental philosophy has become more contested and that this might provide us with an opportunity to "re-brand" hermeneutics.

There was also discussion about increasing attendance at the annual conferences. It was pointed out that the most expeditious way to increase participation is to increase the number of people on the program. One easy way to do this is to make sure to offer moderator posts, especially to those whose papers were not accepted. Another way to increase participation is have more book sessions or panel discussions. Each of these involves four or five presenters. In the case of panels, a topic could be set forth and participants selected from abstracts provided in advance. Or panels could be selected from complete proposals that set forth their own topic and presenters. Another related suggestion was to have people move away from reading papers to presenting summaries of previously posted papers for discussion. It was thought that this would not only add to the dynamic interaction of the group, but it might allow us to increase the number of sessions and hence participants. Another idea was to shift the days of the conference so that sessions would begin on Friday morning and carry through Sunday morning. One might even consider anchoring the program by scheduling a keynote speaker late Sunday morning. The EC was also encouraged to maximize its advertising of the annual conference to include not just the NASPH mailing list and SPEP, but other sites as well, such as Phil List Serve.

6. Before the meeting adjourned, Lawrence asked all to thank Dan for his service as NASPH secretary.

NASPH finances May 2016-June 2017

INCOME                      EXPENSES                      ASSETS

2016-17 NASPH dues (30)	750		
16 conference registration (23)	575		
16 conference registration (7 students)	70		
16 conference banquet (27)	945		
16 conf. banquet		1802.4	
201 Paypal charges		78.64	
16 conference totals	2340	1881.04	458.96
1 dues	25		
9 dues through paypal	225		
paypal charges		9.52	
TAMU banquet refund	300.4		
Totals	2890.4	1890.56	999.84
5/29/2016 Bank balance	1023.27		
gain from conference and election dues	999.84		
Bank interest	0.77		
Totals	2023.88		
5/31/2017 Bank balance	2023.88		