

2020 NAPS Minutes/Notes

In 2020, the NAPS Annual Meeting in Chicago was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. Consequently, there was no Board meeting and no meeting minutes. In order to record and inform members of Board and Society activities, these notes are presented in lieu of the meeting minutes. Yearly Board Reports were duly submitted and are available from the Secretary.

I. 2020 Annual Meeting

- A. The 2020 Annual Meeting was to be the Society's 50th Anniversary, and special elements were added to the regular program to celebrate this milestone.
- B. With the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 meeting had to be cancelled.
 1. The officers and Board worked closely with the events company Total Events Resources and the Hyatt Regency Chicago to assess the feasibility of holding the conference, but it became clear this was not possible.
 2. We regret that the cancellation announcement came as late as it did. NAPS's contract with the Hyatt has a *force majeure* cancellation clause, but the hotel delayed in acknowledging that circumstance necessitated this outcome. Had NAPS cancelled the conference before the hotel acknowledged the *force majeure* situation, the Society would have been liable for a financial penalty of approximately \$80,000. The officers and Board delayed until the hotel admitted the *force majeure* condition, thus allowing the Society to cancel the meeting without penalty.
 3. Efforts will continue to conduct the 2021 Annual Meeting, including those presentations accepted for 2020. Preparations for May 2021 continue to evolve.

II. Nominating Committee

- A. The Nominating Committee (NC) solicited nominations for Board and committee vacancies and shared their slate of nominees to the Board.
- B. Per the stipulations of the Constitution and By-laws, the Board extended the terms of all Board members by one year, until the next annual meeting in May 2021. The NC's slate therefore was not adopted. However, the Board ratified the nominations for the Awards and Prizes Committee and the Digital Humanities Committee; both of these are committees of the Board and do not require Society approval. Candace Buckner, Student Member-at-Large, was not able to extend her term due to her graduation, so the Board approved the NC's nomination of Sarah Porter.

III. Awards and Prizes

- A. The Awards and Prizes Committee (APC) examined all submissions and awarded the Dissertation Completion Grant, Dissertation Research Grant, five Small Research Grants, two Regional Meeting and Study Group Initiative grants, and five Graduate Student Paper Prizes.
- B. The JECS editorial staff selected the Best First Paper Prize recipient, and the CLA staff selected the recipient of the Best First Book Prize.

- IV. Christianity in Late Antiquity
 - A. Approaching the last year of Christopher Beeley's term as CLA editor, Joel Kalvesmaki was appointed the next CLA editor.
 - B. This selection was made by soliciting nominations for the position. The ad hoc committee for nominating the next editor reviewed the candidates and selected Joel Kalvesmaki.

- V. Preparing for the 2021 Meeting
 - A. Clayton Jefford, VP, and Shawn Wilhite, Conference Program Manager, began preparations for an in-person meeting in May 2021, hoping that conditions would allow the conference.
 - B. Speakers from the 2020 program were given the opportunity to roll over their 2020 presentation to the 2021 conference. About 80% of planned speakers chose to do so. To finish filling the program slots, a Call for Papers was made through October and November 2020.
 - C. Notifications of acceptance were sent out in December 2020, and the new program went under construction.
 - D. In December 2020, it was apparent that conditions would not allow an in-person meeting in May 2021.
 - 1. The Board unanimously voted to alter the format to a hybrid convention with the significant majority of presentations being done virtually.
 - 2. There was planned to be a few elements held at the Hyatt Regency involving 25-30 person and overnight stays in order to satisfy contractual obligations and incur no penalty.
 - E. By January 2021 the hotel was not certain it could open in May for any guests, so the program was switched to a completely virtual format. The Board unanimously approved this decision, and a letter was sent to the Society informing of the change, of low registration fees, and that there would be no General Business Meetings or elections. Instead, Board members would continue in their roles until the May 2022 conference. The Board unanimously approved the content of this letter.