

Polanyi Society Board Meeting Minutes

Annual Board Meeting – Virtual Format

October 8, 2022

Members present: Collin Barnes, Ellen Bernal, Gabor Biro, Jean Bocharova (ex officio), Gus Breytspraak, Jon Fennell, Walter Gulick, Paul Lewis (ex officio), Esther Meek, Phil Mullins (presiding), Bruce Vojak

Guests: Andrew Grosso, Richard (Dick) Moodey, Andy Steiger, Craig Wickstrom

1. Welcome

Phil noted a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am Central Daylight Savings Time.

2. Approval of Polanyi Society Board Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2021, Virtual Format Meeting

The minutes approved with two minor changes: the of spelling of Gus Breytspraak's name and Walter Gulick being present.

3. 2022 Treasurer's Report

Phil opened discussion on Charlie's report on behalf of Charlie.

Walter asked to what extent are funds easily accessed from the 360 account (the backup, available money). Phil responded with an explanation of how Charlie plans to move funds. The endowment has three accounts: Vanguard index funds, an E-Trade account that pays dividends, and the 360 account which is a place to put money that we might need to put in and pull out. Craig clarified the use of endowment funds as not all being readily available. Phil noted that we must show that we are spending part of the endowment (an average of ~5%, per Creath Thorne), not just building a balance. We are spending part of the endowment (from the 360 account). Anything that we withdraw for specific uses also counts toward this. Walter went on to note that we've lost money in the endowment due to how the stock market has been behaving recently. Phil noted that we have a long-term investment here, indicating that we must stay the course with it.

Craig had a question about expenditures for TAD. Paul responded that TAD anticipates these to be ongoing expenses. Craig asked about an annual budget anticipated for TAD. Paul estimated this to be on average of \$500 to \$600 an issue, depending on the size of the issue.

Andy asked about a second recommendation from Charlie regarding Patreon and YouTube, wondering whether this would be content to which members have access based on paying dues. Andy went on to ask about YouTube content, whether it's something that the Society should fund with professional editing, graphics, etc., to ensure a higher level of quality.

4. 2022 Membership Report

Phil opened with a request for comments from Jon and discussion from the group.

Jon noted that number of paid members has dropped. Yet, he is not sure what's happened to those who have dropped since last year.

Phil noted that Jon (Membership) works on the calendar year, while Charlie (Financial) works on a fiscal year. As such, there will be some discrepancies.

Jon noted that some libraries continue to pay dues even though TAD is no longer published in print form. Dick noted that most libraries no longer make hard copies available, only electronic. Phil noted that libraries have been a small, but reliable revenue stream. As such, we need to look for other revenue sources.

5. 2022 Nominating Committee Report

Phil opened the report for discussion.

Walter commented that Phil will be off the board and no longer president. He went on to say how *incredibly grateful* we all are for all his work. Walter also thanked Andrew and Paul for their willingness to serve going forward.

Phil moved for board action on Andrew and Paul; Bruce seconded. Motion carried.

Phil moved for board action on the slate; Collin seconded. Motion carried.

6. 2022 TAD Report

Phil opened with a request for comments from Paul and discussion from the group.

Paul thanked Jean for having served as book review editor, and Phil and Walter for their contributions to keep the journal going. Paul also thanked Martin Turkis who is joining TAD as the new book review editor.

Paul emphasized that TAD really needs a general editor. A general editor needs to make decisions as to how to lead TAD into the future.

Gabor raised the possibility of an annual award for a Polanyi studies paper in TAD as a means of encouraging young scholars to submit. Phil noted how young scholars have been encouraged in the past by receiving travel support to meetings.

Bruce raised a question about the role of TAD going forward. He also asked about whether the Society is a “professional society” or perhaps something else, suggesting that all these questions should be addressed collectively going forward. Along these lines, Craig recalled Wally Mead’s idea of the Society having “a place.”

Esther raised the question of there being only one or two unsolicited papers in hand now. Should TAD be, instead, a production of proceedings? Paul noted that, a few years ago, there were too many submissions. Now, it takes a lot of work to put out three issues a year.

Phil noted TAD has served a small group reaching out to a larger audience. As such we have looked for material to include, often emerging from conferences such as the Nashotah or Loyola meetings.

A wider-ranging discussion involving several emerged regarding the (past, current, and future) nature of both TAD and the Society. For example, the Society was noted to be a place for people to have deeper discussions about your assumptions, not just advocating positions from a superficial perspective. This seemed to resonate with several.

Paul’s motions on continuing with Faithlab and the copy editor were raised, with Craig making the motion and Andy seconding. Motion carried.

7. 2022 Web Site Committee Report

Phil summarized background about a TAD website contained in the materials for this meeting.

Things have stalled. The question, then, is how to proceed.

Andrew noted a connection with the other questions raised earlier about the direction and purpose of the Society and TAD, encouraging coordination.

Ellen asked about advantages of having a TAD website vs. just a Society website. Paul noted that it makes it easier for readers to have a separate website. He also indicated that DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) approval expected/required this as they found it difficult to find things related to TAD on the Society website.

Jean discussed the nature of developing a TAD website, what would be easy and what would be more challenging. Discussion ensued by the group regarding specifics of how to move forward, as well as associated costs. Andy provided context as to how to outsource this, indicating that it is much faster to outsource it rather than doing it ourselves.

There was wide-ranging discussion on a web site. Esther then moved that we hire a web designer. In response, Andrew recommended that the board not take action until there's further discussion. After additional discussion, Phil suggested that Andrew, Paul, Phil, and Andy form a small committee to create a plan on how to move forward with the web site. Following more discussion, the group agreed with Phil's suggested approach.

8. 2022 Zoom Presentations/Discussions Report

Walter suggested that this activity needs to be picked up by someone.

It was concluded the Society needs volunteers or someone paid to lead the Zoom effort. Phil noted that University support no longer exists, so we have to find some other way to move things like this forward. Gus suggested a Zoom meeting coordinated with a TAD issue as a way to continue this activity.

Ellen suggested the Society provide a stipend, perhaps to a graduate student (or, as Dick later raised, an adjunct), to drive Zoom sessions. While seeing the value of what Esther suggested, Craig raised concern about how many different initiatives are being raised that require funds, rather than volunteers. Phil summarized several different initiatives that might require funds, especially as universities no longer support the Society, albeit indirectly from a financial perspective. Phil also expressed appropriate concern on behalf of volunteers so that they not be financially exploited (as adjuncts often are exploited) by the Society.

Andrew suggested that an annual budget be developed so that an overall view be structured, rather than individual allocations. Bruce agreed with Andrew, advocating for a holistic view. Ellen agreed with Andrew, withdrawing her motion. Craig spoke in favor of a holistic, long-range view. Phil expressed concern about the potential success of establishing a long-range view for the Society, mainly as it is difficult to project where everything is headed given the various changes currently experienced in higher education, the economy, etc. Walter added to Phil's comments, advocating against a big, strategic plan approach.

9. Addendum: Endowment 2022

No discussion occurred on this topic other than what was raised earlier in this meeting.

10. Bylaws Revision

Collin asked to comment on this. No mention made of the rights and privileges of members. The

Society currently is said to be in the business of advancing an understanding of Polanyi's work, sustained by charitable contributions. Walt added that we no longer have an annual meeting with AAR, that the board is the central decision-making entity. Craig raised questions/concerns about the proposed wording (that the membership will now be limited to the board of directors), asking whether a small group could take over the board, sending it in an undesirable direction.

Motion from Collin to revise the bylaws. Phil seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. Possibilities for 2023

A Nashotah House meeting was discussed. The last week of May/first week of June has been probed with the people at Nashotah House. They are happy to accommodate unless there's a conflict for them. Andrew has received only one indication of interest in attending. We need to make a decision in the next 8 weeks. Walter suggested the need for a meeting theme as a means of soliciting a response. Phil suggested the possibility of 2024 Nashotah instead. He also asked about the possibility of an annual meeting in 2023, presumably in conjunction with AAR. Esther asked if we have enough commitment to proceed with Nashotah in 2023. Andrew suggested that an in-person meeting at Nashotah might be a good opportunity to discuss the future of the Society.

Motion proposed for a financial allocation to a possible 2023 Nashotah House Meeting, to be made up from conference proceedings (that the conference will be designed to break even). Craig moved. Bruce seconded. Motion carried.

12. Outstanding Matters

Andrew mentioned Charlie's recommendation to move \$5,000 to the Vanguard account needs to be addressed. Craig seconded it. Motion carried.

Andrew indicated that a motion raised last year by Charlie to raise fees/dues for affiliation needs to be addressed. It has been tabled since last year. No additional discussion. New motion made to take it off the table. Motion carried.

Phil called the meeting to a close at 12:15 pm Central Daylight Savings Time.

In closing, Charlie recognized Phil's many contributions over the years.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce A. Vojak

February 22, 2023