

## **Polanyi Society Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Meeting – Virtual Format

November 15, 2024

**Members present:** Ellen Bernal, Andrew Grosso, Paul Lewis, Charles (Charlie) Lowney, Esther Meek (left at ~3:25 pm), Andy Steiger, Bruce Vojak, Craig Wickstrom (left at ~3:20 pm)

**Absent:** Martin Turkis (ex officio)

**Guests:** Young-il Choo (left at ~4:03 pm before Treasurer's Report), Colin Cordner (left at ~4:48 pm)

### **1. Welcome**

Andrew noted the existence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm Central Time.

### **2. Approval of Polanyi Society (PS) Board Meeting minutes from December 16, 2023**

Andy moved to approve the minutes with no changes; Paul seconded. Motion carried.

### **3. PS website update**

Young-il provided a document for consideration. It was distributed by Andrew to participants ahead of today's meeting. As noted by Andrew, Phil and Young-il have done a great deal of work and a great job.

Young-il elaborated on his notes a bit. "It has been an adventure," summarizes his experience. It has given him additional insight into the PS. He noted that "Phil has been amazing" in going through the site in detail. Most of their time has been spent on updating TAD issues. Work now is mainly focused on tweaking the site. Further, Young-il noted that Charlie helped in setting up SSL (secure website) at a very small cost.

Andrew had asked Young-il for suggestions. Young-il responded, mentioning search engine optimization (SEO). Young-il is disappointed that we're not getting the hits we "should" expect; yet Polanyi lectures on YouTube are getting visibility. Secondly, old pages are actually showing up. The reason for this is unclear at this time. All of TAD is published as PDF files, making them less accessible when purely online. There are no links from individual articles that direct users back to the PS website. Had they been created as HTML pages, they would have been more flexible in terms of accessibility. Additionally, frequent publication helps the site rank higher in search results. In summary, Young-il provided three recommendations: increasing the number of YouTube posts, transitioning from PDF to HTML for TAD (possibly eliminating the need for FaithLab to convert TAD content to PDF format), and publishing content more frequently.

Paul provided background on TAD's use of PDF, indicating that it was to enable downloading and desktop printing of individual articles. A more detailed discussion of the multiple options ensued. Andrew mentioned one additional issue. Andrew thanked Young-il and encouraged him to speak with the TAD board. Young-il indicated a need for a PS "web committee." Andrew

recommended that these types of discussions be offloaded onto a group like that. It was mentioned that, during the Nashotah meeting, Reine Revere had indicated to Young-il a willingness to serve on such a committee.

#### **4. Tradition and Discovery (TAD) update**

Martin provided a report for consideration. It was distributed by Andrew to participants ahead of today's meeting.

A brief discussion ensued, including consideration of the need for the TAD web committees to agree on a path forward for publication.

Bruce raised the topic of changing roles and contracts for Colin and Martin (swapping positions as General Editor and Book Review Editor), as well as the process, or lack thereof, used to reach the current situation, noting that the Bylaws had not been followed. Discussion ensued, including an indication that this will be discussed next in the Treasurer's report.

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

Andrew distributed updated contracts for Colin Cordner and Martin Turkis to participants ahead of today's meeting.

The TAD board has made a motion by submitting a proposal, not requiring a second, given that it comes from the TAD board. Both contracts were ratified/passed with one abstention (Bruce, for procedural reasons noted above).

Charlie shared transparently and amusingly that he had finished the treasurer's report two minutes before this meeting began. He then shared his spreadsheet on Zoom to discuss the state of PS finances in appropriate detail.

During the discussion, we learned that Andrew personally made a payment of ~\$1,500, without board discussion or authorization, to Faithlab to keep the website project going. Bruce moved to reimburse Andrew's payment, and Craig seconded. A vote was taken, and the reimbursement was approved.

The good news is that the endowment grew considerably. A withdrawal from the endowment covered the 2024 annual deficit. It was noted that next year there will be an additional expense of \$5,000 for the TAD General Editor.

#### **6. Board composition**

Esther Meek rolls off at the end of 2024 and is not eligible for reappointment until 2027. There was a brief discussion of board membership, including the number of members required to remain operating

#### **7. Program**

Andrew noted that the PS is likely entering a relatively quiet year, with the Nashotah House gathering scheduled for 2026 and no in-person meeting planned for 2025. Andrew suggested that an early 2025 board meeting would be appropriate to explore strategic and program development topics.

The possibility of creating a series of Zoom interviews was raised, speculatively including people such as:

- Charles Taylor
- Terrance Deacon
- Thomas Pfau

Paul noted that Phil Mullins and Gus Breytspreek are currently the unofficial curators of PS Zoom meetings.

#### **8. 2025 meeting schedule**

Andrew indicated that he would share a Doodle poll after the first of the year to schedule the next PS board meeting.

#### **9. Close**

Andrew called the meeting to a close at 3:57 pm Central Time.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce A. Vojak  
May 24, 2025