

## **Polanyi Society Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Meeting – Virtual Format

December 12, 2025

**Members present:** Ellen Bernal, Colin Cordner (ex officio), Andrew Grosso, Paul Lewis, Charles Lowney (left at 9:45 am), Andy Steiger, Bruce Vojak, Craig Wickstrom (arrived at 9:35 am)

**Guests:** none

### **1. Welcome**

- Andrew noted the existence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:03 am Central Time.

### **2. Approval of Polanyi Society (PS) Board Meeting minutes from August 14, 2025**

- Paul moved to approve the minutes with no changes; Andy seconded; motion carried without opposition.

### **3. Treasurer's Update – Charlie Lowney**

- Still about \$5,000 in travel fund, available for Nashotah meeting.
- Not much has changed since the last meeting.
- Phil Mullins and Jon Fennell are proactively looking for donations and dues. A \$1,000 donation was noted.

### **4. Tradition and Discovery (TAD) update – Colin Cordner**

- Approval of new book editor
- Technically (per bylaws), the PS Board does not have specific oversight for the TAD Board; per Paul, there was no TAD Board before Paul took over as General Editor.
- Bruce noted that there is a question regarding the nature of the relationship between the PS Board and TAD Board. His concern is that this is especially true because the PS has sufficiently significant financial resources to require a more explicit relationship.
- Stan Scott volunteered (as a member of the TAD board) to be available to become Book Review Editor.
- Bruce raised a question regarding whether the General Editor and Book Review Editor roles could be combined as a means of increasing the compensation. Andrew noted that there had been discussion of greater granularity: General Editor, Managing Editor, and Book Editor; the benefit of keeping them split is the amount of work and bringing people into the work of the PS.
- Recommendation by Colin (coming from the TAD Board) with a second from Charlier: Colin as General Editor, Stan Scott as Book Review Editor; motion carried without opposition.

### **5. Nashotah update – Andrew Grosso**

- Andrew has been in contact with the people at Nashotah, noting that all contracts have been signed with them.
- More submissions (4 formal submissions; 4-6 more indications of interest) than registrations (2) have been received to date.

## 6. Planning: Pending questions for review/discussion in 2026

- Composition of the board after 2026 (will need at least one new member at the end of 2026)
  - Charlie mentioned a former board member who had rolled off as a possibility.
  - Everyone whom Paul contacted about serving said, “No.”
  - No one whom Andrew spoke with expressed interest.
- Compensation and supervision of paid positions mentioned as a topic.
- Scope of mission: what will our programmatic priorities be in the coming year?
  - Relationship between TAD and PS Board
  - “Philosophically, what do we intend to do as a society?”
  - Craig asked about the future of the PS; Bruce asked about whether such a discussion would occur at Nashotah; Andrew noted that we still have such a vision discussion planned for the upcoming Nashotah meeting.
- 2026 board composition and election of officers
  - General discussion of the timing of selection and adjusting terms; Andrew noted that vacancies can be filled, and new members can be added at any time.
  - Class roster discussion:
    - Ellen Bernal: 2026 will be the third year of her third term (rolls off 2027)
    - Bruce Vojak: 2026 will be the second year of his third term (rolls off 2028)
    - Craig Wickstrom: 2026 will be the first year of his third term (rolls off 2029)
    - Charlie Lowney: 2026 will be the third year of his second term (rolls off 2030)
    - Paul Lewis: 2026 will be the first year of his second term (rolls off 2032)
    - Andrew: 2026 is the first year of his second term (rolls off 2032)
- Discussion of Andrew’s term as president and his original vision
  - He had hoped to place an emphasis on the creation of scholarly work, rather than the operational focus we’ve spent energy on over the past few years.
  - Questions raised regarding what resources we have and what resources we might expect.
  - Andrew acknowledged the range of issues before us.
  - This resulted in a wide-ranging discussion regarding Andrew’s contributions and potential futures for the PS.
- Nominations
  - Officers
    - President: Paul Lewis
    - Vice President: Ellen Bernal
    - Secretary: Bruce Vojak
    - Treasurer: Charlie Lowney
  - Reappointments
  - Actions
    - Craig moved to accept the slate; Andy seconded it; motion carried without opposition.
    - Andy notified the board that he is stepping off; Andrew formally thanked him for his service.
    - Craig moved, Andrew seconded Paul, Craig, and Andrew for three-year reappointments; motion carried without opposition.
- 2026 meeting schedule
  - Per Paul, we will try to have an informal meeting to discuss vision late January/early February and then at least one additional meeting before Nashotah; then these insights would be shared with the larger group for discussion at Nashotah.

- Will continue business as usual until changes are or are not made.
- Other, closing thoughts
  - A formal thank you to be sent to Young-il for his work on the website.
  - Festschrift book for Phil is out for publication.
  - Andrew thanked by acclamation.

## **7. Close**

- Andrew closed the meeting at 10:33 am Central Time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. A. Vojak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "B." and last name "Vojak" clearly distinguishable.

Bruce A. Vojak  
July 3, 2026