Executive committee

Minutes

Participants: Martin M. Lintner (ESCT), President
Nancy Pineda-Madrid (CTSA), Vice President
Gaston Ogui Cossi (ATCB), Member
James McEvoy (ACTA), Member
Kochurani Abraham (EWA) – present for Thursday 28.

Apology: Erico Hames (SOTER), Vice President

1. Agenda: set and discussed at 10.15am
   a. The steering committee decided to deal with issue 7 on the agenda on Thursday, when Kochurani Abraham would be present.
   b. It was agreed to meet with Shaji George Kochuthara and discuss how the 2017 Assembly could best use the Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram (DHK) facilities.

2. Composition of Executive
   a. Having been advised that James McEvoy would resign from the Steering Committee at the end of this 2016 Bangalore meeting, the Steering Committee elected Kochurani Abraham to fill that vacancy until the 2017 General Assembly.
   b. The President informed us that, following the next General Assembly, Gunter Prüller-Jagenteufel (Vienna) would be ESCT’s representative on the Steering Committee.
   c. Nancy informed us that, following the 2017 General Assembly, she would step down as CTSA’s representative on the Steering Committee, and that CTSA is in the process of appointing another representative.
   d. James will contact the new President of ACTA, Raymond Canning, exploring who could serve on the INSeCT executive.
   e. Erico informed us by e-mail that most probably his service on the INSeCT executive will end with the 2017 Assembly. It is up to SOTER to nominate a candidate for the following Steering Committee.
f. Gaston informed us that he is willing to serve as member of the Steering Committee for one more term.

g. As is this Network’s custom, the Steering Committee will present five candidates to the Assembly for their acceptance. In addition to the candidates proposed by the current Steering Committee, Martin three months before the Assembly will ask the presidents of INSeCT’s member societies for further proposals for applications. The candidates should be known at least some months before the Assembly and be familiar with the role as member of the INSeCT Board. The election of the members of the Steering Committee will be part of the Agenda of the Business meeting of the General Assembly 2017.

3. Looking Back:
   a. Re: Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee in Rome 2015;
      i. Re: point 6d: The Steering Committee reflected further and decided that it would not publish a book as a result of the 2017 General Assembly. However, the results from the 2018 conference in Rome might be a better basis for a book.
      ii. The Steering Committee decided that the “Worldwide Theology” reports from the 2017 General Assembly will be published on the web.
      iii. Re: point 6c: the Steering Committee re-considered its earlier decision and resolved that, to focus our energies, all papers would be presented in English and, when required to be presented in Spanish or French, those presentations would be accompanied by a 1-page summary in English. When the list of participants is finalized, the Executive Committee will revisit the question of languages at the General Assembly.
      iv. Regarding societies in the Global South, Gaston clarified: INSeCT is unable to fund research activities in the Global South. However, the INSeCT board can assist those societies to resolve difficulties of organization and administration. In this context, it was resolved that the Steering Committee would propose a 1-hour session as part of the Business Meeting at the 2017 General Assembly to provide technical assistance to support the infrastructure and organizational health of societies in the Global South.

b. It was also agreed that:
   i. Nancy would write a brief eulogy for Anne Patrick RIP for the INSeCT website;
   ii. James would write a small paragraph about ACTA’s “Gender Justice” conference for the INSeCT newsletter;
iii. Nancy would write a paragraph on CTSA’s gender justice session for the newsletter.

c. Reports from regions:
   i. Nancy reported that she had a conversation with Theologanda, from Latin America, at a conference in Buenos Aires in March.
   ii. Nancy reported that she will give a paper at the ESCT conference on gender justice in Vienna in September 2016.
   iii. Martin reported the great success of the conference, held in June in Manilla, entitled “Women and the new ecclesiology”, jointly organized by DaKaTeo and ESCT in collaboration with ESWTR, EWA, ACTA, ITA, and ITWF.
   iv. Gaston reported on “Women in the Bible” and “Women in Theology” [promised explanatory paragraph forthcoming].

4. Membership Inquiry
   a. Actual list:
      i. Executive members to update the list of presidents etc., of associations in their region (and all details) by the end of September. Some member associations have been tardy; the Steering Committee will make a firm effort to have the details of member associations of their region updated.
      ii. James will pass on to Kochurani Abraham details of conversations with those in Asia who are newly interested: Indonesia, Taiwan, and South Korea.
      iii. Martin will pass on details of European Society of Women in Theological Research; and CATI – Coordinamento Associazioni Teologiche Italiane.
      iv. Nancy reported that there are no new member associations in North America or Latin America.
      v. Gaston reported the existence of the following associations:
          Association des Théologiens Catholiques du Burkina Faso (President: Justin Kabore); and Association des Théologiens Catholiques du Mali (President: Gaston Coullbali).
      vi. Gaston agreed to speak with Association des Théologiens Africains (President: Nathanaël Soede Yaovi)
   b. Status of new “members” from Asia:
      i. James reported that our new contacts in Asia were interested in INSeCT, and keep touch with us, but for the most part would not be formal members at this stage. Yet, James reported that he was in touch with Matheus Purwatma, President of the Association of Indonesian Catholic Theologians (AsTeKia), consisting of 30 members,
and they are interested in membership of INSeCT. Louis Gendron SJ has received the newsletter and is sharing it with theologians at his institution in Taiwan.

5. Finances
   a. Membership fees
      i. Martin reported on the status of the payment of membership fees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATCB (Benin)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTA (Australia)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACHTUS (USA)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTSA (North America)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DaKaTeo (Philippines)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCT (Eurorpe)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITA (India)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UITCAM (Mexiko)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT (Argentina)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCT (Chile)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOTER (Brasil)</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii. Martin to write to member associations in January 2017, asking for membership dues for the missing years including 2017.

iii. Membership fees can be paid by bank transfer or in cash at the upcoming General Assembly.

b. Status of account in Tubingen: € 5,000

c. Fundraising for the 2017 General Assembly.
   i. Martin to formulate a letter (August/September) to a number of bodies (members of INSeCT and third party funding), requesting funding, and circulate it to the Steering Committee.
      - To do:
         a. Executive members will write to the appropriate institutions requesting a response to our request for funds before December 31, 2016.
         b. Martin will write a letter of invitation to Presidents of associations in January, asking for their commitment to the General Assembly by the end of January, with details of who is attending.
         c. Martin will include a registration form with the letter of invitation.

ii. Martin to create a budget

iii. Martin to explore the possibility of using the bank account of his order to deal with the funds.
   a. See above – 3 b – for activities already reported.
   b. On November 18-19 in Guatemala a conference is sponsored by Amerindia and the Society of Guatemalan Women, and titled: “Women and Violence”
   c. On September 22-25 in Vienna, the Austrian section of ESCT, INSeCT, ESWTR are together sponsoring a conference on “The Role of Women in Political and Ecclesial Decision-making.” The conference will bring together theologians from both western and eastern Europe. Nancy Pineda-Madrid will present a paper.
   d. Written report by Érico: The research project of INSeCT did not have a large impact on Latin American theological societies. In its recent national congress SOTER – The Brazilian Society focused on: Times of the Spirit – Inspiration and Discernment. Despite the good opportunities offered by the theme for the INSeCT research project, there were only presentations in research groups touching the role of Women in Church and or Society. It seems to me that the most important reflections are going on by Teologanda Argentina. Their last Congress (March 28th-31th 2016) took the theme: Spaces for Peace, signs of the time and women reports (Espacios de paz – signos de estos tiempos y relatos de mujeres) . Nancy participated as one of the speakers. We should also note the research done by women theologians in Colombia.
   e. Steering Committee members will send Martin 5-6 lines reporting on what has been achieved in their regions on the research project.

7. General Assembly 2017
   a. Date and confirmation of plan
      i. Place: Dhrmaram Vidya Ksetram, Bangalore.
      ii. Date: arrive Wednesday July 19 – Sunday July 23 (departure)
      iii. Executive to arrive on Monday July 17.
   b. Planning
      i. We envisage 36 invitees to the Assembly. In his next newsletter, Martin will invite Presidents of societies to let him know by the end of January or their availability to participate in the Assembly.
      ii. Martin to write to Fr Bechina some members of the Roman curia (about four people), from whom Martin could choose and invite to Bangalore.
      iii. It was agreed to ask Erico to organize the liturgy for the Assembly. The following was suggested:
         - A simple booklet with Taize songs.
• Readings and prayers of the faithful in different languages.
• The Steering Committees proposes to celebrate mass on Friday with the local community in Syro-Malabar rite.
• Masses in Latin rite will be celebrated on Thursday and Saturday (Saturday evening mass).

iv. Nancy agreed to collate the regional reports on Theology Worldwide.

v. Kochurani to be asked to be the local immersion committee of 1!

vi. Gaston agreed to arrange the arrival and departure schedule of all participants’ flights.

vii. Martin would collate a list of delegates and email addresses.

viii. Organizing a celebratory supper/dinner for the last evening (Martin in consultation with our contact person at the place)

ix. The Steering Committee discussed inviting representatives of Bishops’ conferences to the 2018 Rome meeting.

x. The Steering Committee decided to invite one person from each region to address the *status questionis* of our research project at the 2017 General Assembly. We decided on: Nancy for the US; Kochurani for Asia-Pacific; and Gunther for Europe. For Africa and South America the decision will be made after knowing the participants from those regions.

Those addressing this issue will be asked to respond to some of the following five questions:
• How has the role of women shifted in your region, both in the secular and the ecclesial spheres, over the past fifty years?
• How do women value themselves and other women?
• How does the Catholic Church in your region value gender studies and the gender question?
• How would you name the situations of gender impasse in your region?
• What do you identify as the specific challenges of your region in regard to questions of gender?

xi. The Steering Committee agreed that Martin would ask Fr Bechina about suggestions for an international guest Bishop (Roman curia/FABC/other). That person would be asked to answer the following questions:
• How would you name the situations of gender impasse in the Catholic Church worldwide?
• How do you respond to the conference theme on gender justice and the role of women in the church?

xii. It was resolved that Martin would write to the local bishops of each rite, inviting them to celebrate the Eucharist.
c. Proposed Schedule for the Assembly:
   i. Day 1: Wednesday July 19
      - Arrival in the evening; welcome; address; socializing.
   ii. Day 2: Thursday July 20: All day presentation
      - 7:30: Eucharist
      - 9.30-noon: 3 papers
      - 1pm: lunch
      - 3pm: Regional reports
      - Evening: 3 papers
   iii. Day 3: Friday July 21 – Immersion / Discussion of major theme
      - 6.30: Eucharist in Syro-Malabar rite
      - AM: Session on Theology Worldwide with Dharmaram Community
      - 1pm: lunch
      - PM: Discussion of major theme
   iv. Day 4: Saturday July 22 – Theology Worldwide
      - AM: Local immersion
      - PM: half-day business meeting.
      - Evening: Mass and Celebratory dinner/supper
   v. Day 5: Sunday July 23
      - Tourist activities / departure

d. The Agenda for the Business Meeting at the Assembly would contain the following matters:
   i. Welcome
   ii. President’s Report
   iii. Clarification of roles of participants, naming who is eligible to vote, and who not.
   iv. Finances and Membership Dues
   v. Session on providing technical assistance to support the infrastructure and organizational health of Theological societies in the Global South, especially in Africa
   vi. Introducing members to the website, outlining the vision and goals of INSeCT, and relating it to the constitutions—Martin.
   vii. Voting on proposals by the Steering committee to modify the Statutes (see below, e) —Martin.
   viii. Next triennial research theme
   ix. Election of the new Steering Committee.

e. The Steering Committee resolved to propose, at the General Assembly’s Business Meeting, the six modifications to the constitution outlined at the meeting of the Steering Committee in Rome, 2015. Those modifications are:
i. It was resolved to discuss, at the next Network council business meeting, an addition to Paragraph 3.3 of the Statutes:

“That those who meet the qualifications for ordinary corporate membership will, in the first instance, be granted extraordinary membership at the Network Council Meeting, and at the following Network Council Meeting can apply for ordinary membership.”

ii. It was resolved to discuss, at the next Network council business meeting, an addition to the end of Paragraph 3.1 of the Statutes:

... publications “and have at least 30 members.”

iii. It was resolved to discuss, at the next Network council business meeting, an addition of a further sub-paragraph to Paragraph 3 of the Statutes:

“4. In countries where there are no theological societies, the regional Steering Committee member will contact a representative theologian and invite her or him to the Network Council Meeting, at which she or he will be treated as an extraordinary member.”

iv. It was resolved to discuss, at the next Network council business meeting, an addition of a further dot-point to Paragraph 2.1 (a) of the Statutes:

“INSeCT is committed to supporting theologians who tend to be isolated because they come from countries that lack a Catholic society and/or countries that have very few Catholic theologians.”

v. It was resolved to discuss, at the next Network council business meeting, an addition of a fourth dot-point to Paragraph 2.1(b), of the Statutes:

“helping to discern with theologians in which there are no societies whether it is opportune to found a society.”

vi. It was resolved to discuss, at the next Network council business meeting, an addition of a dot-point to Paragraph 4 of the Statutes:

“if membership fees are not paid for three consecutive years.”

f. In a meeting with Shaji George Kochuthara, the following matters were resolved:

i. The Dharmaran President welcomed our program.

ii. Regarding participants obtaining an Indian visa:

- Shaji suggested that the Steering Committee ask Kochurani what she would be prepared to do regarding the visa process.
- All the necessary information for obtaining an Indian visa will be sent to participants at latest by end of March 2017.
- Important: Participants should apply exclusively for Tourist visa.
iii. Shaji suggested that the Steering Committee further consider the issue of transport from the airport and, perhaps, suggest that those who arrive in daylight hours catch their own taxi to the conference, and those who arrive at night be met.

iv. A conference kit/bag/pen was discussed and decided against.

v. Shaji informed us that photocopying was no problem at Dharmaram College.

vi. The Steering Committee informed Shaji that one major conference room is required and, perhaps, five break-out rooms, as well as a staff room/office. Shaji informed us that these rooms would need to be booked by the end of January.

vii. The help of a number of doctoral students was discussed, and Shaji proposed that we need about 6-10.

viii. The possibility of tourist activities at Mysore following the conference was discussed.

ix. As regards food: Dharmaram would employ a catering group that could supply both European and Indian food. By January, Shaji could have an approximate cost for food.

x. The approximate cost for room, food, and hire of facilities would amount to about $US 35-40.

xi. Nancy will prepare a list of precautionary measures for the stay in India in order to not get sick. This will be sent out to participants in advance.

8. Mission, vision, goals, and structure of INSeCT
   a. Minutes of the Rome meeting – Martin pointed out the clarity to which we had come at that meeting about the Network’s vision and goals.
   b. Martin will reply to the letter from the President of CTSA, David Hollenbach SJ, thanking him for his letter from Jun 23, 2016, and:
      • Informing him that the INSeCT Steering Committee has developed the Network’s mission and goal and has strong success in that regard; and
      • The INSeCT Steering Committee would warmly welcome a discussion between Martin and himself about “greater stability within the leadership structure.” We propose that the meeting be held in Boston around April 27, 2017, and include Nancy Pineda-Madrid, CTSA’s representative on the INSeCT Steering Committee.
9. Alia
   a. Friday Afternoon – Meeting with the leaders of the CMI Community at DVK
      i. The Steering Committee was warmly welcomed in a formal meeting
         with the Rector, President, and Dean of DVK, and a number of
         members of the faculty. The meeting was chaired by Fr Shaji.
      ii. DVK communicated its desire to collaborate with INSeCT in the 2017
          General Assembly, and to locate the Assembly at DVK. Martin will
          write a letter of thanks to the Rector, President, Dean, and Shaji, to
          thank them for their hospitality and openness, and their willingness to
          collaborate with us in 2017.
      iii. Martin asked Nancy to organize the half-day ‘Worldwide Theology’
          session. The Steering Committee agreed that the faculty and students
          of Dharamaran College would be invited to this session.

The Board meeting ended on Sunday, July 31, 2016, at 11.45 am.

Martin in his office as president warmly thanked all the participants for their effort and
engagement. He thanked especially James, who attended for the last time a Board meeting,
for his work as secretary of the Board meetings and for his huge effort in being the
representative of INSeCT’s Board in the Asia-Pacific region!

Please Note:
All funding for lodging and food at DVK College was met by a private donor, who wishes to
remain anonymous. Air travel was paid for by the executive members themselves, by CTSA,
and by a private donor.

Secretary: James