

Minutes of Network Council, New Orleans 2002

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, 7-8 June 2002

Present **June 7:**

Prof. Dr. Peter Hnermann, President
Prof. Dr. Marcio Fabri dos Anjos, Vice-president
Prof. Dr. Anne E. Patrick, Vice-president
Prof. Dr. Paulo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade (SOTER)
Prof. Dr. Orlando Espin (ACHTUS)
Dr. Thomas Fliethmann (ET)
Prof. Dr. Gideon Goosen (ACTA)
Prof. Dr. Bradford Hinze (CTSA)
Prof. Dr. Daniel Kerber (Sociedad Uruguay de Teologia)
Prof. Dr. Jamie Phelps (BCTS)

Non-voting Guests: Prof. Dr. Gerald Boodoo (Conference on Theology in the Caribbean Today), Prof. Dr. Lieven Boeve (ET)

Actions:

1. Opening Remarks

President Peter Hnermann welcomed the participants and provided brief background information on INSeCT. He noted that Sergio Silva, who had been nominated for the office of Vice-president, was not in attendance.

2. Minutes

After a brief discussion, approval was given for the final version of the minutes from the August 2001 Steering Committee meeting at Graz by those who were in attendance there. (Minor corrections were made because of typographical and grammatical errors, and the wording of the paragraph about finances was changed to reflect the fact that upon his return to Australia after the meeting Gideon Goosen discovered that ACTA had in fact been current in its payment of dues.)

3. President's Report

(a) Peter Hnermann explained the reasons for having the meeting in New Orleans (instead of in conjunction with COCTI, as had originally been planned) and expressed his gratitude to CTSA for hosting the Network Council here. He then raised the question of whether it would be a good idea to replace Sergio Silva on the slate of nominees, since he had not come to the meeting or been in touch about the election by e-mail.

(b) He then elaborated on certain aspects of his written report (attached), especially regarding the projects concerning Vatican II and Catholic theologians in Africa. During subsequent discussion delegates offered various ideas for utilizing the internet to make theological institutions and research in Africa more widely known.

(c) He reported that the non-profit status of INSeCT has been renewed for three years in Germany, with hope of eventual permanent status. Orlando Espin and Brad Hinze then offered to investigate the possibility of obtaining such recognition in the United States, which could help with attracting grants.

(d) There followed a general discussion about facilitating an increased exchange of theological information, particularly from Asia and Africa. The idea of offering a "text only" format for internet pages was mentioned as beneficial for theologians in places where internet access is very expensive. It was suggested to establish links with Koinonia and Theology in Context, websites already available.

(e) Gerald Boodoo volunteered to attempt to contact Sergio Silva to inquire about his availability for service as an officer. Since he was not present here, and since the election was imminent, Peter Hnermann suggested that another delegate from South America be nominated. Orlando Espin then proposed that Paulo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade from Brazil (SOTER) be the candidate to replace Silva. Andrade voiced his willingness to be a candidate if the attempt to contact Silva did not succeed, and the others present affirmed this plan.

(f) The president then distributed the webmaster's report (attached) and mentioned that the next meeting of ET will take place in Fribourg, Switzerland in 2004. The theme will be "The Fears That Haunt Europe-A Challenge to Catholic Theology."

Present June 8:

(This list reflects the election that took place during this session)

Prof. Dr. Bradford Hinze, President
Prof. Dr. Paulo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade, Vice-president
Dr. Thomas Fliethmann, Vice-president
Prof. Dr. M. Shawn Copeland (ACHTUS)
Prof. Dr. Orlando Espin (ACHTUS)
Prof. Dr. Marcio Fabri dos Anjos (SOTER)
Prof. Dr. Gideon Goosen (ACTA)
Prof. Dr. Peter Hnermann (ET)
Prof. Dr. Daniel Kerber (Sociedad Uruguaya de Teologia)
Prof. Dr. Anne E. Patrick (CTSA)
Prof. Dr. Jamie Phelps (BCTS)

Non-voting Guest: Prof. Dr. Lieven Boeve (ET)

Actions:

1. Financial Report and Discussion.

Peter Hnermann presented a financial report (attached). Thomas Fliethmann offered to send a reminder to member societies in October to contribute their dues by December 1. The president's report and plan were received and approved.

2. Election.

The following were elected to three-year terms of office, each by a unanimous vote of the 9 eligible voters, not counting the candidates, who each abstained during their own elections: President Bradford Hinze (CTSA); Vice-president Thomas Fliethmann (ET); Vice-president Paulo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade (SOTER). Newly-elected President Hinze proceeded to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

3. Plans

Bradford Hinze asked Peter Hnermann to serve as a contact person for INSeCT with theologians in the nations of Eastern Europe. He also indicated that INSeCT should prepare a model of the information we hope to obtain from each society, circulate it among the delegates present at the Network Council, and then put this model on the internet. Orlando Espin observed that the questionnaire needs to elicit a response that will reflect the diversity within each area. It was also noted that some background information on the cultural, ecclesiastical, and socio-political situation in each place should be sought, along with information on theological institutions. Bradford Hinze suggested that there could be a bi-monthly presentation featuring a particular location. The model could include further contacts, and opportunities for feedback or additions to be sent to the author. Discussion of which areas would be chosen for the "starting reports" from various regions led to the following agreed-upon list: the area of Eastern Europe, ET, SOTER, and Southern Africa. It was also suggested that Sue Rakoczy and Paulinus Odozor be contacted for suggestions of Africans to invite to make contributions.

Documents presented by President at the meeting (attachments to the minutes):

1. Report of the President concerning the last year 2001-2002 (Rottenburg, 16 Mai 2002)
2. Financial Report 2001-2002 and Financial Planning 2002-2003 (Rottenburg, 16 Mai 2002)
3. Report of the Webmaster (Oliver Dyma, Mai 2002)

Minutes prepared by Anne E. Patrick
October 15, 2002

(Preliminary version, subject to approval)



Leaving: P. Hnermann, A. Patrick, M. Fabri dos Anjos