

Minutes of the INSeCT Steering Committee Meeting Chicago, IL., USA

21. September 2008, 1:00-2:30 p.m.;

Present

Prof. Dr. Bradford Hinze, President (CTSA)
Prof. Dr. Paulo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade, Vice-President (SOTER)
Dr. Thomas Fliethmann, Vice-President (ET)
Prof. Dr. Catherine Clifford (CTSA)
Prof. Dr. Jan M.N.E. Jans (ET)
Alfonso Soares, Brazil
Augusta ..., Chile

1. Opening

President Bradford Hinze opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Election

The president and both vice presidents had to be elected. Candidates were Catherine Clifford (CTSA) for president, Alfonso Soares (SOTER) and Jan Jans (ET) for vice presidents.

Clifford: 14 in favour, 0 dissenting, 0 abstention

Soares: 14 in favour, 0 dissenting, 0 abstention

Jans: 14 in favour, 0 dissenting, 0 abstention

3. Minutes from the Network Council Meeting, 14./15. September 2007.

Minutes for the Network Council Meeting held in September 2007 in Leuven, Belgium, were corrected and approved.

4. Report of the Webmaster

The report of the Webmaster, prepared by Oliver Dyma, was handed out and discussed. Options for the moving of the website to another server were talked about. The new steering committee was asked to explore this possibility.

Tübingen university as the current host of the website stopped providing statistical data on website-access, origin of the visitors etc. Because this data has been very informative in the past, participants asked for a continuation of this service, even it has to be payed for it.

5. Financial Report

The Annual Financial Report was prepared by Dr. Thomas Fliethmann, Vice President, submitted, and approved.

- Participants asked for a more regular and reliable delivery of receipts for membership fees.
- They asked to send an annual financial report to every society, because in between the network councils the various societies haven't got a report so far.
- Member societies should receive regular reminders to pay their dues.

6. Old Business

The publication of a regional report on theology in Canada on the website was announced and welcomed.

The website section "African Theology" has received no new material. The question was raised whether the effort to keep this section alive is worth the effort.

7. New Business

7.1. INSeCT's tax-exempt status in Germany

Thomas Fliethmann will be authorized to deal with German authorities concerning the financial status of the society.

7.2. Future Collaboration with DePaul University

Participants expressed their gratitude for the generosity of DePaul-University to host the "Second International Colloquium of INSeCT" in 2008. Nevertheless it was held desirable the hold future Colloquia at different places, even on different continents. On the other hand was the network council well aware, that INSeCT needs financial sponsors for their activities, which makes a further collaboration with DePaul University highly interesting. The network council gave the mandate to the steering committee to discuss further collaboration with DePaul and to explore their willingness to sponsor meetings at other places.

7.3. New Frontiers

As a network of societies of professional theologians INSeCT is concerned by the conflicts between the magisterium and various theologians. National societies reacted to these conflicts with statements and protests. The question was raised whether INSeCT as a network should react and publish actual statements on its own. A possible means to do that would be a board of INSeCT for this purpose.

The general possibilities were discussed:

- INSeCT publishes statements of other societies, thereby supporting their interventions.
- INSeCT officers setup a statement, sent it to all member societies to get their agreement and publish it in the name of INSeCT.

No decision was made on this topic.

Prepared by Dr. Thomas Fliethmann,

International Colloquium: The Theological Challenge of Intercultural Relations in an Age of Globalization



The Second Triennial Colloquium of INSeCT was hosted by DePaul University, Chicago from June 19-21. Twenty-six representatives of member societies from six continents and twenty countries were able to attend. The topic for this colloquium had been decided following a broad consultation of member societies where globalization was frequently identified as one of the signs of the times, including questions relating to intercultural relations, the migration of peoples, fundamentalism and relativism, secularization, detraditionalization and the loss of identity, and growing concerns for ecology and the care of the earth. The scale of these many issues is contributing to a loss of the sense of agency and a growing gap between rich and poor.

The colloquium met as some of the first signs of the present economic crisis were making themselves felt - rising food prices and shortages in developing countries, unstable financial markets, volatile pricing of significant resources, etc. The uncertain future of religion and its diminished scope of influence are evident in many parts of the world. Members

recognize the need to promote the development of theological responses to these issues; their complexity calls for reflection from all the theological disciplines and one that makes use of non-theological resources from other disciplines.

Participants were pleased to spend an evening with Robert Scheiter, who contributed greatly to their reflections on theology, contextualization, globalization, and catholicity. It was recognized that the global church has much to learn from the voices of local theologians and local churches from around the world.

We look forward to promoting continued reflection on these issues in the coming years, particularly as they affect the changing place and role of theology in service to the church and the world.

Reports

- Summary report (by Bradford Hinze)
- Paper (by Robert Schrieter)

Participants

Second International INSeCT Colloquium - participants list

Photos



Group Photo, network Council, Chicago June 2008



Steering Committee, 2008 Alfonso Soares, Jan Jans, Catherine Clifford



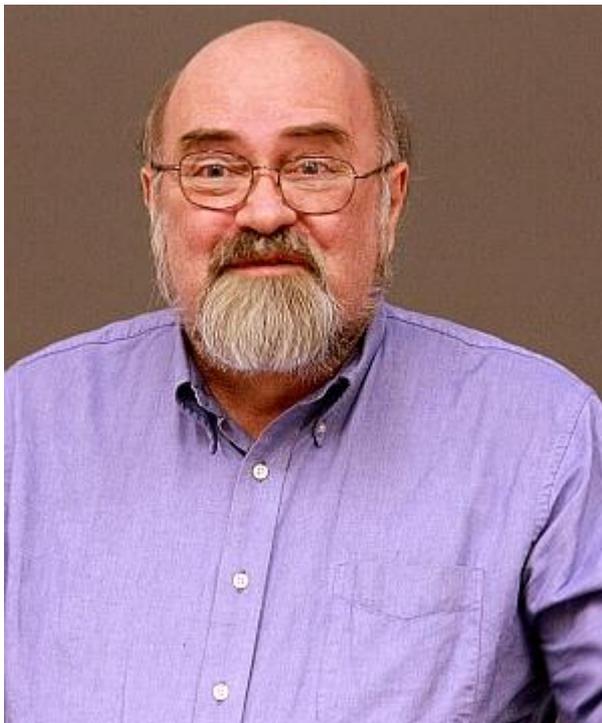
Bradford Hinze (CTSA), president to 2002-2008



Thomas Fliethmann (ESCT), Steering Committee 2002-2008



Paolo Fernando Carreira de Andrade (SOTER), Steering Committee 2002-2008



Robert Schreiter

Group pictures from network Council meeting, Chicago June 2008



