

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting, Ohio 2003

Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
June, 6-7, 2003

Present June 6:

Prof. Dr. Bradford Hinze, President
Prof. Dr. Paulo Andrade, Vice-president
Dr. Thomas Fliethmann, Vice-president

Prof. Dr. Lieven Boeve (ET)
Prof. Dr. Peter De Mey (ET)
Prof. Dr. Rosino Gibellini (ET)
Prof. Dr. Gideon Goosen (ACTA)
Dr. Monika K. Hellwig, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Dr. Thomas Kelly, (CTSA)

1. Opening

President Bradford Hinze welcomed the participants. He thanked CTSA for their generosity in hosting the INSeCT meeting again this year and informed the group that INSeCT would have been welcomed at the COCTI meeting as well, but that COCTI had to cancel its planned meeting on the Philippines. The agenda of the meeting was introduced and approved.

2. Minutes

Approval was given for the final version of the minutes from the June 2002 Network Council Meeting at New Orleans. Minor corrections had been made to put the minutes in accordance with the formal features that are required by German law for non-profit organisations.

3. President's Report

3.1

Bradford Hinze reported on his letters to the presidents of the member and affiliated societies after the Network Council Meeting 2002 to introduce the new steering committee and inform them about the new projects. He also sent a letter in January 2003 to the member societies with a request for payment of dues.

3.2 Catholic Theologies Worldwide: Regional Reports

A project description was drafted by Hinze and revised in consultation with the steering committee members Fliethmann and Andrade. Hinze requested recommendations of names from regional societies for the first six regions to deliver reports: South Africa, Chile, Asia, Baltic States, Australia, Canada. Dr. Michael Amaladoss (India) and Dr. Gideon Goosen (Australia) agreed to write reports.

3.3 African Catholic Theologies (ACT)

For this project a project description was also drafted and revised in consultation with the Steering Committee members. Brad Hinze had contacts with numerous scholars from Africa or working in Africa and scholars with contacts in Africa in search of names for the ACT editorial board. A list of nominations has been prepared, and an invitation was sent to Dr. Justin Upkong, Catholic Institute of West Africa. It was suggested that Dr. Benezit Bujo, who has recently written a book on African theologians, be contacted as a source of information on possible members of the editorial board. Dr. Lieven Boeve suggested using connections between the University of Leuven and African scholars. Brad Hinze thanked Dr. Thomas Kelly from Creighton University, USA, for preparing a list of African Universities and Seminaries.

3.4

Brad Hinze described the work of INSeCT with the board of the College Theology Society during its annual meeting in May 2003. He also discussed the possibility of a non-profit status for INSeCT with the board of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

4. Report of the Webmaster

The report of the Webmaster was prepared by Oliver Dyma and handed out to the participants. Statistics show that there was an increase of webusers who viewed the website. Therefore it is crucial for the societies to provide more information to be posted on the website to make it more interesting and attractive for the societies themselves and for the wider theological community. The question was raised whether or not mere links to homepages of member societies are sufficient. Otherwise the INSeCT homepage becomes just a doubling of already existing homepages.

5. Financial Report

Thomas Fliethmann gave the financial report. It remains a constant task to ask the member societies for their dues. Nevertheless it is necessary to find alternative funding if major projects are to be realized.

Present June 7:

Prof. Dr. Bradford Hinze, President
Prof. Dr. Paulo Andrade, Vice-president
Dr. Thomas Fliethmann, Vice-president

Prof. Dr. Lieven Boeve (ET)
Prof. Dr. Peter De Mey (ET)
Prof. Dr. Gideon Goosens (ACTA)

6. New Business

6.1

In order to foster improved reporting from member societies for the website, the officers of the CTSA and ET will be asked for permission to publish the regular presidents' reports on the INSeCT webpage. This might give an example for other societies to do the same.

6.2. Catholic Theology Worldwide

Participating representatives agreed upon persons, whom the president will ask for regional reports. Paulo Andrade will ask persons in Latin America. Gideon Goosen will contact persons in Asia, especially Vietnam. Peter De Mey will ask African students in Leuven for possible theologians, who could write a report on the situation of African theology. Thomas Fliethmann will discuss the project with ET president Leo Karrer.

6.3. African Catholic Theology

The main task here is to find members for the editorial board. Peter DeMey will ask Africans in Leuven as well as the African expert with "Missio" for suggestions. Another source for suggestions are the editors of the journal "African Ecclesiastical Review." Brad Hinze suggested starting the project with some previously published essays by African theologians and to invite theologians who have recently received their doctoral degrees, to submit their names, where they received their degrees, and the titles of their dissertations with a brief description, which will be posted and included as a further contribution to this project.

6.4.

The future of INSeCT was considered. As a further step to realize the mission of INSeCT a proposal was discussed to have a meeting of delegates, or if possible a meeting of presidents of all the member societies and affiliated societies during the next regular Network Council Meeting in 2005. This meeting might take place one or two days before the CTSA convention in the US. In accordance with the regular schedule, INSeCT would ask the CTSA to host the meeting that year. Topics of the meeting might be the identification of common

interests/challenges/problems of theologians worldwide, the relationship between theologians and bishops, theology and religious communities in the various regions and countries. INSeCT would need to find substantial funding sources for this meeting. So it remained an open question, whether INSeCT is capable of organizing such a meeting with the limited time available.

6.5.

Brad Hinze will write a history of INSeCT to be posted on the Homepage

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

1. Agenda for the meeting (President Hinze)
2. Financial Report 2002-2003 (Vice president Fliethmann, June 3, 2003)
3. Report of the Webmaster 2002-2003 (Oliver Dyma, May 2003)

Minutes prepared
by Thomas Fliethmann
October 22, 2003