

INSeCT Executive 2011 – 2014

Minutes of the Executive Meeting in Belo Horizonte

July 6th to 13th 2013

Profs Conway, da Silva, Clifford and Pineda-Madrid (incoming nominee to of the CTSA to the Executive), met in Belo Horizonte as the guests of SOTER. Profs Conway and Clifford were invited plenary speakers at SOTER's annual Congress.

The members arrived on Saturday, July 6th, and were welcomed by Valmor da Silva. Nancy Pineda-Madrid joins the Steering Committee as a new delegate from the CTSA, who will be nominated succeed Catherine Clifford. Her participation as an observer is an opportunity to provide for continuity in the work of the Steering Committee.

The Committee met on Sunday, July 7th to establish an agenda of business for the week ahead. On that afternoon they made a cultural excursion to Ouro Preto and Marianna. On the way they stopped at the Recanto Coquero d'Agua retreat house to tour the facility. The centre is located in proximity to the airport and has suitable meeting space and accommodations. It was agreed this would be a suitable location for the 2014 Network Council meeting.

July 8-11 2013

On July 8th work began to establish a program for the 2014 Network Council. The proposed agenda for that meeting would include two joint sessions with the annual congress of SOTER, including a keynote plenary and an opportunity for panel presentations on the challenges and opportunities for Catholic theology to be given by INSeCT members. Other sessions would provide an opportunity for continued reflection on our theme: The Role, Function and Location of Theology in Church and Society, with particular attention to the abuse of power. This topic is particularly timely in light of Pope Francis' agenda for the reform of the church. The invited keynote speaker will explore the theological responsibilities and resources for renewal and reform in the church.

Given the pressure that theology often finds itself under, even in Catholic institutes of higher education, we also hope to explore this topic with an invited representative from the Congregation for Education. Representatives from COCTI and FIC will also be invited.

From July 8-11, the members of the Steering Committee took part in the annual congress of SOTER. On July 10th we were received by Archbishop Walmor Oliveira de Azevedo, ordinary of the Archdiocese of Belo Horizonte and Chancellor of the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais. Archbishop Walmor had already offered his written support for the plan to hold the INSeCT Network Council in Belo Horizonte. This meeting provided an opportunity to discuss in greater detail the work of INSeCT, and the agenda for the Network Council. It was emphasized that this

would be an historic occasion, the first gathering of the Network Council in the southern hemisphere since its foundation in 1996. We also began to explore the possibility of including in our program an opportunity for INSeCT participants to encounter members of the local church engaged in mission.

On July 10, Catherine and Eamonn spoke in a well-attended plenary session of the SOTER Congress, moderated by Valmor. The congress theme was “Deus na Sociedade Plural: fé, símbolos, narrativas.” Our contributions were entitled, “O Concílio Vaticano II e o seu compromisso com o dialogo no século XXI,” (Vatican II’s Understanding of Dialogue in the 21st century), and “A Nova Evangelização: apresentar Deus numa sociedade plurista” (The New Evangelization: God in a Pluralist Society). We are most grateful to SOTER for the provision of translation services for the full written and oral presentations.

On July 10 and 11 the members of the Steering Committee met with past Vice-presidents of SOTER (Paulo Fernando C. de Andrade; Marcio Fabri ; Luiz Carlos Suzin ; Afonso Soares) and with the newly elected Executive Committee of SOTER (Erico João Hammes, Vice President; Carlos Frederico Barboza de Souza; Selenir Corrêa Gonçalves Kronbauer, Asst. Secretary; Adilson Schultz, Secretary; Edmar Sena, Treasurer; Paulo Agostinho n. Baptista. The newly elected president, Jaldemir Vittorio, s.j. was unable to join us). We were impressed by the interest and commitment of SOTER to host the 2014 INSeCT Network Council. They were supportive of the proposed joint sessions of INSeCT and SOTER on the morning of July 16, 2014. After a discussion of the proposed budget, it was agreed that SOTER would assume all financial responsibilities for accommodation and inland transportation of INSeCT participants.

July 12-13 2013

Following the conclusion of the SOTER Congress, the members of the Steering Committee continued to meet, reflecting on the future of INSeCT and the agenda for the business meeting of the Network Council 2014. The committee reviewed the Statutes with particular attention to the stated goals of INSeCT. Almost twenty years after the foundation of INSeCT, do they continue to be realistic goals? It was decided that while the goals remain appropriate to an international network of learned societies, structures must be strengthened in order to be more effective in fulfilling the mandate of INSeCT. Two structures, in particular, came under consideration.

First, there was concern to ensure that the Steering Committee be truly representative of the diversity of regions represented by the member societies. Until now, the Steering Committee has been composed of representatives of the three founding societies (ESCT, CTSA, SOTER). However, this is not a requirement of the Statutes, and officers may be elected from any member society. Consideration was given to expanding the Steering committee to five members, to ensure representation from each region. To ensure such participation and to strengthen the profile of INSeCT in the years between the triennial Network Council, the Steering Committee will strive to schedule its meeting in conjunction with conference events organized by member societies in the various regions. Given that until very recently

such meetings were held exclusively in Europe and North America, efforts will continue to be made to hold these meetings in the developing regions of Latin America, Asia, and Africa. It was noted that meetings of the Steering Committee are open to any member of the Network Council. Efforts will be made to strengthen such participation with a view to greater regional representation.

Another topic of some concern was the question of continuity among the members of the Executive. Given that elections are only held every three years, it does not seem possible to “stagger” the terms of the Steering Committee members. By accepting to serve a second mandate in the role of Vice-president, Catherine has provided for an element of continuity. When the Network Council meets in 2014 to elect a new Steering Committee, this factor will be impressed upon the council members.

Eamonn and Catherine will continue to explore options for a more permanent institutional home for INSeCT, including a secure bank account and some measure of administrative support. The establishment of a blog will make the transition and administration of our online presence more manageable in the future.

On Saturday, July 13, the Steering Committee met to discuss the need to continue updating the web site, and to transition to the new blog. Efforts will be made to remain in communication with those who have attended the Network Council meetings over the years. Tasks were assigned for the coming months as we prepare for the Network Council in Belo Horizonte, in 2014.

The meeting took place at no cost to INSeCT.