2023 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING - ZOOM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023, FROM 3:10 PM to 4:45 PM ET

SUMMARY MINUTES

In attendance: Michael Pasquier, Charles Strauss, Anthony Smith, Andrew Metzger, Allison Isidore, Kyle Roberts, Shannen Dee Williams, Tuan Hoang, Sophia Maurette, Sean Brennan, Catherine O’Donnell, David Roach, Karen Park, Nelson Minnich, Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, Justin Poche, Tom Rzeznik.

Charles Strauss, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

Charles presented the minutes of the April 13, 2023, EC meeting to vote on. After noting the absence of Anthony Smith from the attendance log to be amended, Michael Pasquier, President, moved to accept the minutes, and Kyle Roberts seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

EC members provided reports on responsibilities and projects, including Allison Isidore, Assistant Director, who provided an update on the fall newsletter and the creation of the ACHA's Discord Server. This server was created as a virtual place for members to find roommates potentially for the spring and annual meetings, have questions about lodging, discuss panels, or discuss other scholarly things like teaching or needing assistance with finding sources for research. She proposed that the Discord Server would be ready to launch by September 4. Allison also reported on the creation of an ACHA Threads account (Meta's version of Twitter, which changed its name to X) in an attempt to get followers who were leaving X.

Andrew Metzger, ACHA Web Administrator, provided an update to the new changes to the ACHA website, which consisted of updating the membership portal and additional features such as a job post board, a job board, and a syllabus archive.

Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, Treasurer, provided her first Treasurer's Budget vs. Actuals: 2024 Budget from July 2023 - June 2024. Here, the discussion was surrounding the categorization and rationale of some payments, why the budget is constructed using QuickBooks, and the ACHA
fundraising, in which November is dedicated to the annual appeal, both for the general fund and then all of the restricted prize fund.

Nelson Minnich, CHR Editor, provided an update on the CHR’s summer edition and how it was shaping up.

Charles Strauss, Executive Director, shared his report: first, that ACHA membership stands at 427, which increased from the April meeting, which held membership at 415. This is still shy of the 500, which is the ACHA goal for this year. Membership increases, typically before the annual meeting, but Charles explained that ACHA is going to continue to try strategies on social media, individual word of mouth, and from the membership committee.

Second, The EC can now update the bylaws since the ACHA Constitution has been approved by the membership. This will be done at the annual meeting (January 2024) when the whole EC is there in person, but he will have the suggested draft of those bylaw revisions for the November 16 EC meeting. In January 2023, the EC did approve some bylaws, so the upcoming changes will not be a major overhaul; rather, there are a few items that have to be changed, given the way the Constitution has been changed.

Third, Charles updated how fundraising will be identified in the newsletter in terms of what the ACHA has to offer in five areas: first, the ACHA inspires and supports first-grade scholarship. Second, the ACHA encourages innovative teaching. Third, the ACHA connects scholars from across the globe. Fourth, the ACHA reaches broader audiences of librarians, archivists, curators, journalists, church leaders, and public intellectuals. And finally, the ACHA supports sites of historical significance.

Finally, Mount St. Mary's University has finally provided office space for the ACHA and Charles Strauss, which is located in the Thomas W. Pangborn Memorial Room in Pangborn Hall on the campus of Mount St. Mary. Charles has also visited CUA to retrieve 87 boxes of archival documents, some of which will remain at CUA, and some will move to the Pangborn office space at the Mount. Charles also met with the CUA publisher to discuss publishing some of the material produced with the ACHA, such as the Indigenous Boarding School project or the Globalizing Catholic Studies Initiative.

Justin Poche, ACHA's Election Board Convener, presented a motion related to the slate of candidates for the upcoming election. The positions up for election were two slots on the EC and the position of Vice President/President; there were six candidates that the election committee voted on. Karen Park moved to accept the slate of candidates for ACHA EC and Vice President/President Elections; Sean Brennan seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The EC then moved to a discussion of Old Business. The first item relates to the statement committee. The statement committee would examine how we would sign or not sign on to statements brought to the EC from the American Historical Association (AHA) asking affiliated
associations to sign onto their statements. Those on the committee are Michael Pasquier, President; Anthony Smith, Vice President; and EC members Sean Brennan and Catherine O’Donnell. The committee will guide discussion on statements and will bring them back to the EC for a vote if a policy comes out of it. If a policy doesn't come out of this, then the committee will explain why that is to the EC. The EC will have this on the agenda for November 16.

The next item related to the ACHA Virtual Seminar, which was a result of COVID-19 virtual seminars. The Virtual Seminar committee, which Jack Downey chairs, has set a date for the next seminar on September 21. The speaker will be Elayne Oliphant from New York University. She will be presenting on her project "Catholics Abolition and Racial Capitalism and Martinique."

Charles then led a discussion on the future ACHA spring meeting, which is scheduled for April 2024. Brenna Moore has agreed to be a part of the program committee and will be announcing a call for papers in September. This Spring Meeting on the topic of global Catholicism will be held online. Karen Park shared that St. Norbert College in Green Bay, Wisconsin, would be eager to host the ACHA for the Spring Meeting in 2025. Sean Brennan also suggested that his institution of Scranton University be the host for the spring meeting in 2026 or 2028 after St. Norbert hosted.

The last item of old business was the discussion of the Annual Meeting in January 2024. Tom Rzeznik, Chair of the 2024 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, provided the update. The 2024 Annual Meeting has the same number of slots as the 2023 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The program is very full, going from the afternoon of Thursday, January 4, until the end of the day on Saturday, January 6. There will be an after-hours event on Friday, January 5, similar to previous off-site programs. There will be the addition to the program this year is that the local arrangements group has organized two tours before the conference starts for people who might be flying early to the conference. Thursday morning, Bill Issel and Jeff Burns are going to have a walking tour of the North Beach neighborhood, and another group is going to have a tour and talk at Mission Dolores. Registration opens on September 15, and members will have the option to RSVP for these tours there. The mass is going to be at Our Lady of Notre Dame de Victoire.

The EC then moved to a discussion of new business. Kyle Roberts motioned to amend the current budget and change the account line 6160 AHA Invoice from $1,500 to $6,000. Michael Pasquier, President, seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The next EC meetings are on November 16 over Zoom and January 2024 in person in San Francisco.

The meeting concluded at 4:45 PM EST.