

Philosophy and Theory of Higher Education Society (PaTHES)

General Assembly Meeting, December 01, 2020

Minutes of the meeting recorded by Wesley Shumar, Secretary of the Society

Chair's Report

The first activity of the meeting was a talk by the chair, Søren Bengtsen and presented by president. (The chair was absent due to illness.)

- The talk covered the history of the society, the current board members, and the activities of the society.
- The talk then went on to discuss membership and community building.
 - The chair's vision of the society is one where members are owners of the community and are encouraged to take an active role in shaping the society and its activities.
 - Members are encouraged to be involved and develop joint projects with other societies and research groups.

Presidential Address

The second item of business was the presidential address. Members were encouraged to think about how and where we can grow the membership of the society.

- Who are the colleagues we can reach out to and bring into the society? We should all make an effort to be active in the society.
- We as members were encouraged to think about writing a blog for the website. If we have ideas for a blog, we should be in touch with Dagren Engen, at-large board member who is working with the website.
- We are also looking to build a data base of people's interests and areas of work.
- Members should consider sending their articles to John Petrovic, editor of the *Philosophy and Theory in Higher Education* journal. If members have ideas for the society, they should reach out to Søren about ideas they have, and to reach out to Rikke for events they might want to do.

Treasurer's Report

The next item of business was the treasurer's report.

- Membership fees are at 75 euros for members, 45 euros for students. We now have a membership category for un-waged members.
- If people are financially challenged, they are encouraged to reach out to Sarah Robinson, treasurer of the society, about a concessionary membership.
- The society's bank balance is 42161 DKK, which is about 5500 euros. There will be funds outgoing to pay for the website, the payment site, and to Peter Lang for members who ordered hard copies of the journal. Peter Lang has not billed yet, we will probably get that bill at the end of the year.
- In terms of membership, we had 30 members in 2019.

- Our goal for 2020 was to reach 50 members, and we surpassed that with membership currently around 60 members.
- Our new goal is 100 members for 2021. We would also like to create a map of our membership and the countries we come from as we are very diverse. This is something the website team has already begun.

Discussion

- There was a question from the membership asking if a group membership for people who are from the same institution could be established.

Action Item: It was agreed that this was a good suggestion, and the board will take up this question.

- Another member suggested it would be good to create an online encyclopedia about the Philosophy of Higher Education. They also suggested the website could list people who are willing to share their expertise younger scholars in a variety of areas.

Action Item: These were also deemed good suggestions and will be taken up by the board.

- There was a question about whether we would get an auto-reminder for payments of dues. Right now, the system is not set up for auto-reminders, but the Chair will send out a reminder about the dues to the membership.

Secretary's Report

The next item was a presentation from the secretary of the society on the society's bylaws.

- In section 4 of the bylaws regarding the election of board members, there are a few wording issues that need to be sorted out.
 - Clarification on the number of at-large board members was the first issue.
 - The second issue is that the bylaws need to state that every third year there will not be an election.

Action Item: The board would take up this re-write. The board will send out the bylaws for an email vote from the membership to approve the amendments.

- There were no questions about the issues involved with the bylaws.

New Board Members

Next, the president introduced the new board members to the society. The new board members are:

- Eva Bendix, the new vice chair of the society
- Dagrún Engen, at-large board member who is the newsletter editor and the co-webmaster

- Rikke Toft Nørgård, at-large board member who is working on the Facebook page and connecting PaTHES to other societies
- Sharon Rider, at-large board member who heads the team at Uppsala University that is hosting next year's PaTHES conference

Journal Report

John Petrovic, editor of the *Philosophy and Theory in Higher Education* journal spoke next about the journal.

- The winter issue of the journal is up, Vol 2 #3, and so the journal is now caught up and coming out on time. The winter issue is a special issue edited by Amanda Fulford.
- Currently, the April issue is in production.
- Next fall there will be the special issue from the Leuven conference.
- The journal is a bit low on submissions so please submit.
 - There needs to be more submissions for the summer issue. Currently there are only a couple of submissions for the summer issue.
- The acceptance rate is about 40% and a 60% rejection rate, which is good for a new journal.
- A current goal is to get the responses and review section going.
 - The journal will be interactive and members are encouraged to submit responses to articles in the journal to create a dialogue around different topics.
 - The journal is also looking for book review articles. The goal of the journal is to develop essay reviews that situates books being reviewed in the larger field. The description for book reviews is on the website.
- Within our memorandum of understanding between the society and the journal, the November issues is always linked to the conference. But the journal is always open to other special issues from society members.
 - If people have ideas for special issues, they should be addressed to John Petrovic, the editor of the journal.

Action Item: The membership was asked if they have been getting their hard copy of the journal if they requested it. Several people indicated that they have not gotten it, so the editor will look into that.

Discussion

- A member asked if a paper on “the idea of the university” from different country’s perspective would be a good paper for the journal. The editor said that if it addressed issues of theory and philosophy then the answer would be yes.
- Another question was whether there could be support with English writing for non-native English speakers. The editor indicated that the journal staff could support people with standard English writing.

- A member asked the editor to explain the process to propose a special issue. Individuals should email the editor directly to ask if the idea fits with the journal and its plans. If the answer is affirmative, then the submitter should send a proposal with a 4-500 word abstract and if there are authors already part of the proposal, their names and tentative titles of articles should be included.

Conclusion

Concluding our business, the meeting wished Søren Bengtsen well and the board thanked the membership for their participation and support.