

John Dewey Society
Minutes of the 2010 Annual Business Meeting
May 1, 2010

In attendance: Nakia Pope, Kurt Stemhagen, A.G. Rud, Doug Simpson, Philipp Gonon, Deb Seltzer-Kelly, Linda O'Neill, Paul Shaker, Tom Wacker, Laurel Tanner, Dennis Buss, Michael Filsecker, Michael Glassman, Dave Hamilton, Guoping Zhou, Craig Cunningham, Peter Hlebowitsch, Dan Tanner, Matt Pamental, Lynda Stone, David Waddington, Terri Wilson, Deron Boyles, Jim Garrison, Len Waks, Yusuke Matsuoka, Kyle Greenwalt

Lynda Stone calls meeting to order. Matt Pamental distributes minutes from last year's meeting to the membership in attendance. Doug Simpson moves to accept, Deb Seltzer-Kelly seconds. Motion passes and minutes approved.

Lynda Stone overviews the issue of the SIG/Society relationship: All SIGs must have some governance structure that falls within AERA rules. Therefore, we must either dissolve the Society to remain a SIG, or move the Society apart from AERA. She notes that it would seem the only option that preserves the Society is to sever the relationship with AERA. Yet we could also (re)constitute a new SIG as well, and there is space in next year's program for any new Dewey SIG.

Craig Cunningham moves to sever the Society from the SIG. Jim Garrison seconds the motion. The floor is opened to discussion. A.G. Rud clarifies that the motion is better stated as separating the Society from AERA. Jim Garrison notes that the SIG and the Society have for long been one and the same. Lynda Stone notes that, under the new rules, there can be no appearance of a shared structure between affiliated groups and SIGs, yet they can establish such things as links between their websites. Deb Seltzer-Kelly suggests that the Society have a liaison to the new SIG. Jim Garrison notes that Matt Pamental already serves such a role for the SAAP. Terri Wilson asks what other groups are doing. Lynda Stone says she believes they are moving in a similar direction as the Society. The problem, she notes, is that the details of how the Society might be supported by AERA in its attempt to meet concurrently are unknown (rooms, advertising for the lecture, etc.). Craig Cunningham notes that while such details are important, nothing further can be done until the Society severs from AERA. The question is called. Board members who are present vote unanimously to sever the Society from AERA (Lynda Stone, Jim Garrison, Craig Cunningham, Linda O'Neill, Doug Simpson, and by proxy, Margaret Macintyre Latta, David Granger and James Campbell).

Lynda Stone asks SIG members present if they wish to make a motion to (re)constitute themselves. Jim Garrison asks if the Board(s) of both are still in order. Craig Cunningham says the Society Board might appoint a liaison to the SIG Board. Deron Boyles clarifies that the two organizations are now severed, and hence an appointed SIG Board is not possible. He states the next order of business is to determine if we still have a SIG, and if we want to continue that SIG, or disband it under protest. Lynda Stone says the question is not if we have a SIG—we do—but if we should maintain it. The (re)constituted SIG would have to submit new by-laws and a membership roll. Terri Wilson asks if the SIG would keep the Lecture, or just the slots. Lynda Stone clarifies that the Society will keep the Lecture and the Symposium, and that two new slots would therefore open up for SIG members. Jim Garrison says it is important to at this point clarify that “we” are the Society. The Society will retain the reception, the Lecture and the Symposium. Deb Seltzer-Kelly says that we could of course establish a Dewey SIG, but that we lack the information to do so. She states that we may not want to continue in AERA. Jim Garrison clarifies that “we”—the Society—can be and are now outside of AERA. Lynda Stone says that the SIG is a chance to

draw a new and younger membership, to diversify, and to think broadly about where we want to be in 20 years. She continues by stating that we must establish a structure and set of volunteers that will take over the SIG, and get it going. Craig Cunningham states that it is possible the SIG will thrive without the Society. Paul Shaker raises his concern about how and if the Society would appear on the AERA program. Lynda Stone notes that the AERA leadership wants a Deweyan presence, and the two organizations (Society and AERA) can be affiliated. Lynda Stone notes that she has the Symposium filled for next year, and has an idea for the lecturer, so that the Society program is filled. What's needed is to organize the SIG. Paul Shaker again asks if the Lecture would be listed in the program. Lynda Stone says she doesn't know, that she has looked into advertising in AERA journals, and it is very expensive.

Lynne Schrum, Chair of the AERA SIG Executive Committee rises to introduce herself. She says AERA is really committed to making this work. Any Dewey SIG would be welcomed and expedited. They will advertise the Lecture under the affiliated groups section of the program. Deron Boyles asks Lynne Schrum what exactly is the problem AERA is trying to solve. Lynne Schrum notes that SIGs started in the 1960s and were loosely affiliated. The problem was that once AERA was incorporated in Washington, DC, the SIG became "wholly owned" by AERA. In the past, SIGs would have the same officers for 10-15 years, and ignore submissions from certain authors. Therefore AERA asked the SIG Executive Commission to ensure that all SIGs have by-laws and the like. Deron Boyles notes that the Society has not engaged in any of this behavior. Lynda Stone says that the Society has already voted to sever its relation with AERA, so that all that remains is to (re)constitute the SIG. Jim Garrison asks Lynne Schrum what affiliation with AERA would look like for the Society. He notes we need much more information to do this right. Lynne Schrum says the Society should make a list of request, for example, for a special dispensation to advertise the Lecture in the program. Jim Garrison clarifies that the Society should make a proposal to Felice Levine for transition to being an affiliated group. Lynne Schrum says she is committed to the Society-AERA relations. She says she will start a listserv for affiliates. Matt Pamental notes that he obtained price quotes for room rental, and he also wonders if there might not be additional costs to affiliation. He notes that the Society might not be able to afford this, especially if there is an affiliation fee. Lynne Schrum says "no, no, there is no fee." There is a SIG fee as part of AERA dues, but no cost to affiliated groups aside from what's contracted—things such as proposal submission and review.

Craig Cunningham notes that we still must spawn the SIG. Matt Pamental moves to spawn the SIG. Craig Cunningham seconds. Deron Boyles notes that the bureaucracy of AERA is engaged in a power grab based on bad assumptions. He notes it's irresponsible and wrong. Lynne Schrum says the Society and the SIG are mushed, which is a problem, because not all Society members are AERA members. A.G. Rud argues that AERA's request is reasonable. Craig Cunningham says that normalization is needed. Deb Seltzer-Kelly says that there is not an enormous group gathered in the room, and that double membership seems difficult. Matt Pamental says there are 160 SIG members, and the question is whether that SIG should continue. Craig Cunningham says there is no question but that it should. Lynda Stone says that SIGs have little infrastructure, so there is not a huge manpower issue. David Waddington asks why the SIG and the Society can't have dual officers. Lynne Schrum says it's not possible because AERA owns the SIG. She notes there must be two separate elections. If a person were elected within the structure of both SIG and Society, that is ok. But such joint officer-holders cannot be written into the by-laws. Jim Garrison clarifies that the relationship is therefore contingent, not necessary. Lynne Schrum recommends not choosing as the name of the SIG, "The John Dewey Society SIG." She notes that AERA can organize a SIG election so that the SIG does not have to wait until January for officers. She thanks the members and leaves. Motion to spawn the SIG is put to vote. All SIG members present vote in favor of doing so.

Craig Cunningham calls for nominations for SIG Chair. Matt Pamental nominates Craig Cunningham. Len Waks seconds. Doug Simpson says we need more candidates. David Waddington suggests Lynda Stone as Program Chair. Lynda Stone volunteers to have herself as SIG Chair and Craig Cunningham as SIG Program Chair. Doug Simpson moves to make Lynda Stone SIG Chair and Craig Cunningham SIG Program Chair. David Waddington seconds. Matt Pamental notes a SIG Treasurer is needed. Lynda Stone calls for volunteers. Doug Simpson nominates Nakia Pope. Jim Garrison seconds. Vote is called on this slate. All SIG members present vote to approve this slate of officers for the SIG.

Matt Pamental gives the budget report. Membership of the Society declined from approximately 150 to 125, institutional members from 41 to 32. He believes the institutional member decline is because *Insights* is not coming out in hard copy. He notes there are 162 SIG members, which is slightly down. He notes there is a total annual income of \$6590, and that our current balance is \$10,703.47. Hence, financially, we are on solid footing, partly because we have not put out a book in recent years, nor *Insights*. He notes we must start thinking about the uses this money can be put to. Per IRS regulations, we must remain below \$25,000 to maintain non-profit status. Matt Pamental introduces the new Society Secretary-Treasurer, Kyle Greenwalt, and thanks the presidents he worked with—Larry Hickman, Jim Garrison, and Lynda Stone.

Kurt Stemhagen gives the membership report. He notes the severance between the SIG and the Society has made his job clearer. He believes a grassroots push is needed for the Society. Jim Garrison notes that this transition is crucial, and that the Society might consider giving Kurt assistance. He notes that publicity is crucial, and that the Board should work to more closely assist Kurt. Lynda Stone notes that Board has asked for a clearer role and a way to be more active, especially in working with teachers and community activists.

Craig Cunningham reports on website. He notes that we need a new website, but that the NING is growing, has teachers involve. Perhaps the NING could be integrated with the website. He would like to hand it off to someone.

Peter Hlebowitsch reports on the Daniel Tanner Endowment. He notes the Tanner Endowment was reorganized under its own tax ID. The Endowment will continue to support the Society and the journal. The Endowment would also be willing to help on membership recruitment.

Daniel Tanner gives report as Society archivist. He notes that a few years ago, the Society had well over 350 members. He believes there is an untapped market—teachers, teacher supervisors, and curriculum workers. He notes that teachers are in the founding call of the Society. He notes that the ASCD lecture used to be packed by teachers, but that the last lecture was critical of schools and lost the interest of ASCD. Jim Garrison notes that the ASCD lecture happened in 2008 and 2009, and that the severance happened only in the past year. Daniel Tanner proposes we re-establish this connection. Craig Cunningham notes we need to perfect the Society's ability to form alliances. Len Waks says there are many groups hungry for connection and this needs to be central to our mission. Lynda Stone notes the Society should have a liaison to ASCD, but that being critical/not critical cannot be the issue. Lynda Stone notes we lost 40% of our SIG slots due to declining submissions, and that we must review why we are receiving fewer submissions (Denver location, travel freeze on many campuses). She believes that after next year, the Symposium series will be able to generate a book for the membership, and this might help with visibility. Len Waks says that Barb Stengel's ideas for moving the CSI in this direction will help us form alliances and liaisons. Daniel Tanner asks for a clarification on the process for how the Lecture is decided—is there still a Lecture Commission? Are they drawing up a contract to publish the Lecture? He notes there hasn't been a book published in several years. Jim Garrison agrees we are overdue for a

book, that we have a TC Press liaison who will help us on this. Daniel Tanner notes that the membership form says members get a book. Jim Garrison notes there has been an effort, but that no lecturer has delivered a manuscript. Lynda Stone notes that the Symposium on Philosophy and Crisis is a two-year plan, and there is interest at TC Press in turning this into a book.

A.G. Rud reports on *Education and Culture*. He is stepping down as editor. David Granger is taking over. The journal needs a book review editor, and the deadline to apply for this position is May 7, so it has not been determined who that will be yet. A.G. notes that the journal is at 73% rejection rate, so that selectivity has improved. He notes that the sales for the *John Dewey at 150* book are good. Len Waks suggests that this would be a good book for the membership, that it would be a good and cheap marketing tool. A.G. agrees that Matt Pamental, Lynda Stone and the Board should follow up on this idea of sending the *John Dewey at 150* book to the membership.

Jon Bradley is absent. Lynda Stone gives *Insights* update in his place. She says it is probably time for a new editor along with a new format. She was going to nominate someone who applied for the EC editorship to take this role over. Matt Pamental notes that there are many library complaints about the move to electronic copies of *Insights*. Craig Cunningham says we need paper copies as a recruitment tool. Len Waks says we really need a team of people to run *Insights*—to both ensure quality and help coordinate it with the CSI blog.

Lynda Stone asks if there is any new business. Matt Pamental notes that the trip to AERA is expensive, that he, as the Secretary-Treasurer must come, and that he would like to request some money. Jim Garrison argues the Secretary should be reimbursed for this work. Craig Cunningham moves to give \$500 to the Secretary. Linda O'Neill seconds. Deron Boyles suggests we need a rationale for this amount. The Board unanimously votes to approve \$500 for Matt Pamental for this year, and will revisit the issue of Secretary-Treasurer reimbursement as needed in the future.

Craig Cunningham notes that three persons are moving off the Board this year and elections are needed. Lynda Stone notes that this will happen soon, and that a President-Elect must be chosen as well.

Meeting adjourns.