

2011 Annual Business Meeting
John Dewey Society
April 8, 2011
New Orleans, LA

Present: Lynda Stone, Jim Garrison, Dan Tanner, Maura Striano, Deb Seltzer, Rebecca Stevens, Lynn Birenato, Craig Cunningham, Gert Biesta, Jon Bradley, David Granger, Deron Boyles, Doug Simpson, Margaret McIntyre Latta, Kyle Greenwalt, Juanita Bautista-Guerra, Anne Jones, Leann Logsdon, Barbara Thayer-Bacon

President Lynda Stone calls the meeting to order. Gives brief update on official efforts to gain affiliated status with AERA. Minutes from last year's business meeting are distributed. Two minor corrections are noted. Craig Cunningham motions to pass the minutes as amended, Deron Boyles seconds the nomination. Motion passes unanimously.

Kyle Greenwalt gives treasurer's report. Membership numbers are basically even and there is a reasonable cushion of \$9000. This year, we had several new expenses which need to be considered in terms of long-term revenue flow. Jim Garrison notes that there are many one-time expenses, relating particularly to the transition. He notes that they were well handled, in his opinion.

Lynda Stone notes that membership officer is not here, and then asks Jim Garrison to report on some of the conversations had about membership recruitment. He notes that there are opportunities to reach out to graduate students, practicing teachers, to use *Insights* as an outreach vehicle to graduate students, to perhaps have graduate student sessions here at AERA. He notes we now have two international members on our Board, and that we might want to expand internationally. Need to repair ASCD relationship. Might be able to work though Larry Hickman, and other Dewey centers internationally, to do mailing for membership.

Barb Stengel is not here for CSI Report. Craig Cunningham notes that the CSI Blog is doing well, has readers, hits are way up. We need to make sure the URL is on all Society communications. He says David Waddington has been doing well contributing, but we need more regular bloggers. Craig would like more graduate students to read the blog, to have professors think about assigning students to read or write for the blog. He also notes we have a NING. He thinks we should all join this social networking site, though it is not currently doing much. He thinks the Society should use the NING to perhaps share papers, give feedback to colleagues. Lynda Stone asks Craig Cunningham to write something up that could go in a future newsletter.

David Granger reports on *Education and Culture*. He notes that fall 2010 issue was late due to transitioning issues. The pieces for spring issue were submitted about a week late compared to last year, so they are coming back on track. There will be memorial to JoAnn Boydston in the spring 2011 issue. About 25 submissions since he took over, about ½ of those will be accepted. Many book reviews. He and book editor Shane Ralston have been successful in finding books about Dewey. He is asking authors for more uniformity in citation style by moving to Chicago Style. He was asked about back issues of EC prior to AG Rud's editorship, which he says should be made available online in the future. This, he says, should give us a better sense of our history. Fees to Purdue University Press were up but were offset by revenue from Project Muse. He notes that Sage has shown interest in buying the journal. Might behoove us think about this closely. Two ideas for special issues have been floated recently: One dealing with Dewey and issues of race, and one dealing with Dewey and the philosophy for children movement. If

people have ideas, they can contact him. As with the Dewey at 150 volume, we could turn these into books. One change might be to do additional book reviews online, thereby giving more space in the journal for practitioner audience, and more writing opportunities for graduate students. He says we should also consider open-accessing the journal. There are many arrangements we could use. He welcomes feedback on this idea. Gert Biesta says issue of open access is important, and we might survey members. Jim Garrison notes we have two journal editors on the Board, and that we should take advantage of that. Lynda Stone notes that under some models, only back issues are open accessed. But Gert Biesta says there are very important financial issues to consider. Deb Seltzer notes that we risk losing Project Muse income if we go completely open access. Lynda Stone thanks David Granger for a successful transition.

Jon Bradley reports on *Insights*. He notes the original purpose was to facilitate quick, informal communications. There are now better ways. Thanks to Dan Tanner, *Insights* was revived about 12 years ago. But over the past decade, there have been increasing costs with mailing, printing, and labels. He thinks it is time to rethink *Insights*. Electronic is the only option, he believes, as paper is expensive. He thinks we could do more to include graduate students, but also practicing teachers. He thinks Dewey's messages are important to them. Items such as practical book reviews would be of interest to teachers. He notes that the practical question for us is what to do short-term; he thinks we need a lead editor with an editorial team, to involve grad students, to give reports from the field, and also consider reprints of newspaper articles of interest. He notes that printing and mailing costs have almost doubled from 10 years ago, and if we have more international members, then the costs go even higher. If things are returned, then we pay for that as well. The new *Insights* could be anchored in practice, electronic, and include regular sections each time.

Dan Tanner's report on archives. He notes that paper is the memory of man so a paper *Insights* can be a good recruitment tool. He notes that Dewey's last statement to the Society indicated that our best bet was to be not a philosophical society, but a society dedicated to the schools. We should be speaking to teachers, and that means ASCD. These lectures at ASCD gave great visibility to the Society. We also had yearbooks that were a source of income and visibility. After World War II, the yearbooks were replaced with the Lectures, which were also a source of income through publication. The key question: Do we want the Society to be another philosophy of education society, do we want *EC* to be another *Ed Theory*? Or do we want to speak to a broader society? The Tanner Foundation has supported *EC* and *Insights* on a matching basis, and will continue to do so. The title of *Insights* does not communicate what we are. He thinks we might rename *Insights* as *School and Society*. We might have it distributed at ASCD. Craig Cunningham asks about the location of the physical archives. Dan Tanner notes these were all moved to the Dewey Center at SIU many years ago.

Lynda Stone gives her presidential remarks. She says we have several issues to consider. We are now an affiliate organization, and we have new issues to think about. The Society is now 75 years old, so if we want it to be here in 75 years, we need to consider how we bring new vitality to the Society. Among the most important issue we face is resources. We need a budget process. She notes that we should consider raising our dues to around \$60. This is not a big increase. We have lost membership not because of dues, but because new students today do not see the relevance of Dewey. She notes that new teacher candidates read Dewey, and that we should think about connecting to them. Those are the people of the future, so we should think about grabbing them right at the start of their careers. She does not think anyone would not join because of an extra \$20 year. She notes that we should pay our lecturer more. Madeleine Arnot asked for an airline ticket. Lynda Stone was embarrassed to say no so said she would pay for it, out-of-pocket if need be. The lecture could broaden our views, bring in new people, as with Angela Valenzuela a few years ago. So, Lynda Stone says, we need to pay these people more than

the \$500 we currently do. Lynda Stone also said we took out an ad in *Ed Researcher* to advertise our program and we will need to continue to do this. Another issue to consider would be to expand the program. She further notes that we have a 30-year-old Constitution. We either have a bold President who acts without constitutional guidance or someone who remains uncertain—a Constitution can help give guidance. Our Constitution is from 1978, and it needs updating. New membership, *Insights* are issues that have been discussed and need addressing. We might think more about affiliations with other organizations (AESA, PES, etc.). We need to find more ways to involve Board members. In the future, we will need to work with the SIG. We need to think about our relationship to *Ed Theory*. They have a lot of money and we are paying them. We need to think about the ASCD issue (for example, who set up as Darling-Hammond lecturer this year). We have no operating institutional timeline, no manual for the Secretary, President or Board Members. We need some operating memory.

Floor is opened for discussion. Deb Seltzer says the beauty of not being SIG is that people can come who are not registered for AERA. We could have grad student roundtables, and students who live locally might want to come for free. We could have a day with local practitioners. We could use a local school.

Rebecca Stevens says we need strong outreach to teacher prep and graduate students. That is an audience that is waiting.

Dan Tanner notes we previously had lecturer's commission, which might be a good task for the Board, and get a signed contract for a book.

Jon Bradley notes he is retiring after 40 years at McGill. He says student teachers stay awake at night over the moral and ethical issues that teachers face. We are in a unique position to offer something that teachers are not getting in teacher prep.

Rebecca Stevens notes that she agrees. One of the challenges might be to bring philosophy back into the classroom.

David Granger notes that we need to be the spokespersons at our institutions. Dewey tends to be taught at the graduate level. We need to bring this to colleagues who work with both doc students and undergrads.

Gert Biesta says he has been on the Board previously, and it was the three most quiet years of his life. He thinks we have to be realistic. We need to pick our initiatives carefully. Let's get something started. Gert says we should make a few steps today if possible.

Craig Cunningham notes that the same issues are discussed each year. He recommends that the Board meets more frequently, online if possible. He suggests the Board meet virtually in September before the start of the semester.

Craig Cunningham makes a motion to raise fees to \$75, which is seconded by Jon Bradley. The floor is opened to discussion. Deb Seltzer notes that we have to be careful with early-career faculty and teachers. PES uses sliding scale based on income. Lynda Stone seconds the notion of a scale. The motion is amended to a graduated scale of \$30/\$45/\$60/\$75 (by income). Question is called by Craig Cunningham. Motion carried unanimously.

Deb Seltzer suggests we today create ad-hoc committees with a Board member as its chair. Jim Garrison recommends we do pair the list down to *Insights*, revision of the constitution, and grad student recruitment/other affiliations. Doug Simpson notes an expanded program costs money, so first order of

priority should be to create a working budget. Lynda Stone says three committees could be formed: *Insights/outreach/grad students*, Constitution, and Budget. Deron Boyles recommends Gert Biesta, Craig Cunningham, Kyle Greenwalt and Jim Garrison would make a good constitution and budget committee. Deron Boyles recommends Gert Biesta chair it. Members agree. Deron Boyles recommends Deb Seltzer, Rebecca Stevens, Lynn Birenato, Jon Bradley, and Margaret Latta form the outreach/*Insights* committee with Margaret as chair. Members agree.

Meeting adjourns.