

Byzantine Studies Conference

Governing Board Meeting: 26 October 1989

Attending: Thalia Gouma-Peterson (president), Kathleen Corrigan (vice president), Robert Ousterhout (secretary-treasurer), George Majeska, Nomikos Vapouris, John duffy, Leslie Brubaker, George Dennis, David Grose (co-chair of local arrangements committee).

Minutes of the last meeting were approved. It was agreed that copies of the minutes of the 1988 business meeting should be distributed at the business lunch, one copy per table. The Liaison Committee report should be presented orally at the Business Meeting, with copies available to those interested, but not generally distributed. The question was raised of whether all Liaison Committee members should also be members of the Governing Board.

Several matters were discussed in preparation for the Business Meeting. David Grose commented on the fiscal realities facing the BSC, suggesting that a \$2000 subvention is necessary for each conference just in order to break even. Thalia G-P noted that the last three conferences have not shown a profit, and that the 1990 conference at the Walters Art Gallery looked to be both expensive and a money-loser. Questions were raised about the upper limit for an acceptable registration fee, and whether lunch and the reception costs should be included in the registration fee.

It was agreed that a token amount, \$50, each should be given to each of the four participating grad student who has requested travel funds. No policy was established concerning helping the same student two years in a row. Nor was it fixed what the "nominal fee" for grad student registration should be. The grad student paper prize should stay at \$100, unless there are further anonymous donations. Because of the budget, it is unclear whether this support could be continued in the future.

The process of achieving Tax-Exempt Status is under way. Fees have been paid to the IRS and to the Secretary of State in Illinois to process the papers. The lawyer's fee will be \$1500.

Problems of the mailing list were discussed. Many result from the list being cut from ca. 3000 to ca. 400 names to remove dead wood. Some live wood was apparently also removed, and it is angry. Better communications need to be established between the Secretary and the Local Committee concerning mailings. The mailing list should be put out at each conference for corrections, and there should be something on the call for papers for those who will not attend the conference but wish to stay on the mailing list.

It was encouraged that the next Board should consider that the continuity from year to year is provided by the secretary-treasurer, so this position would best be served by someone who could take the position for several years, as done by previous secretaries, Hanawalt and Havice. R.O., who is in his last year on the board, recommended the next office holders should not be elected for a multi-year term, and that they should have the option of continuing the position from year to year.

The status of the BSC needs to be clarified on such mailings as well, to avoid confusion by participating non-North Americans. The sentence, "The Byzantine Studies Conference is supported by the registration fees paid by all participants," should be included on mailings. In addition, it was advised that a separate letter be sent to non-North American participants clarifying the nature of the conference, and suggesting that if they wish to take advantage of the facilities at D.O. while here, they should make separate arrangements with D.O. It would also be useful to clarify with the Visa Office what needs to be done by foreign participants to facilitate the visa process.

The sequence of upcoming conferences was also discussed, in response to a concerned letter from W. Kaegi. Transportation problems to Glasboro State (1991) are anticipated, and this must be discussed with their local arrangements committee. R.O. insisted that Champaign-Urbana (1991) is easier to get to than Amherst, and should not be a problem. It was proposed that three conferences in a row in the Midwest was a bad idea. Bloomington is not really interested, so perhaps Hellenic College could host the 1993 conference, with Ann Arbor hosting in 1994. These dates should be checked with the colleges involved.

Thalia G-P presented a report on D.O. fellowships, showing that there is a decline in Byzantine fellowships with Art Historians and women being slighted. The matter should be raised at the next liaison committee meeting, and a copy of Thalia's report should be sent to Angeliki Laiou.

It was questioned whether a larger slate of officers should be proposed each year so that there could be a real election. The constitution says four candidates, so that's that.

Respectfully submitted
Robert Ousterhout, s/t

(with minor revisions, as suggested by the Governing Board, incorporated by L.B.)