

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS
IN CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Minutes of the Meeting
of Thursday, December 8, 1994

Executive Board Room
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza
Seattle, Washington

- I. Eren Branch, completing her second year as Chairperson of the Association, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. (Wine, cheese, fruit, and crackers were available in the meeting-room.) Dean Branch welcomed everyone present, overviewed plans for the evening, and led self-introductions of the representatives of member-institutions present. Participants and their affiliations were

Mary Lou Anderson	Assumption College
Eren Branch	University of San Diego
Patricia DeLeeuw	Boston College
Peter Diffley	University of Notre Dame
Willard Gingerich	St. John's University
Carol Harvey	Assumption College
Nathan Hatch	University of Notre Dame
Robert Himmelberg	Fordham University
Edward Jennerich	Seattle University
Michael Lawler	Creighton University
Rev. John Lynch	Catholic University of America
Katy Marre	University of Dayton
Paul Medici	St. John's University
Rosetta Moore	Saint Louis University
Robert Nikolai	Saint Louis University
Birute Vileisis	Loyola-Marymount University
Diane Wilson	University of Notre Dame

(A draft of the Minutes of the Association meeting of December 2, 1993, was circulated by mail early last Spring for review. No critical responses were filed; the Minutes were presumed acceptable as prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer and were included in the agenda-mailing for tonight's meeting.)

- II. Eren Branch requested membership and treasurer's reports from Bob Nikolai. Bob indicated that 27 Full and two Associate institutional members had paid dues for the 1993-94 year; total dues collected were \$1,130. He further reported that, thusfar for the 1994-95 year, 25 Full and one Associate members had paid dues for a total of \$1,025. received to date. He said that he had had to send reminders to six institutions, and three of those responded with dues-payments thusfar. With reference to the Association's finances, Bob Nikolai indicated that the 1993-94 fiscal year began with \$1,615.20 in the checking account. Income-items were dues-

payments, funds collected for dinner after the annual meeting, and assessments for the Candidates' Booklet. Expenses were snacks at, the speaker for, and the dinner subsequent to the annual meeting, preparation and publication of the Candidates' Booklet, and for mailings and telephone-calls. Expenses exceeded income for the year by about \$430., and the balance on hand on July 1, 1994 (the beginning of the new fiscal year) was \$1,185.58. Bob indicated that copies of the membership and treasurer's reports, as well as copies of other Association materials (e.g., the mailing-list and the Constitution of the AGSCCU) were available this evening.

III. Eren Branch then asked Bob Nikolai for a report on the Candidates' Booklet project. Bob gave a brief history of the project; annually brief biographic sketches of advanced-degree candidates and recipients interested in faculty-positions are collected and organized in booklet-form. The booklet prepared in the Fall of 1993 contained 246 sketches from a total of eleven Association-member universities, both apparently "all-time highs." Booklets were distributed to more than 900 individuals: to 217 academic vice presidents of colleges and universities (mailing list from the NCEA) and to 718 superintendents and other hiring officials of grade- and high-schools (mailing list from the ACCU). Total costs, covered generally by assessments, were approximately \$1,250. Bob brought several copies of the 1994-95 edition of the Booklet to the meeting. He reported that the mailing to colleges and universities has been completed, and that this Booklet contains 220 sketches from ten Association-member institutions. Both last year and this, the portion of biographees willing to consider grade- or high-school (as well as college/university) faculty-opportunities was 42%. Bob Nikolai then reported that he, with help from Katy Marre, had conducted a survey of college/university recipients of the Booklet to investigate its usefulness. The sample was 69 institutions; 23 or one-third of the sample responded to the two-page, eight-item survey-instrument. Two-thirds of the respondents indicated that the Booklet was received early enough to be useful in their hiring processes; several respondents requested the booklet a month or so earlier (i.e., before November 1). A few respondents asked for additions to the biographic-sketch-format (e.g., position-type, geographic preferences). One respondent thought the Booklet project should be discontinued. Bob suggested that, in general, the Booklet seems to be of more interest to the smaller schools than to the larger institutions. Nathan Hatch commented that each year, apparently, a number of his biographees make contacts for potential faculty positions through the Booklet. Bob Himmelberg thought that the "master" copy of the Booklet could be prepared in more hi-tech fashion, perhaps with a laser-printer. Paul Medici suggested that additional copies of the Theology section(s) of the Booklet might be printed and mailed directly to chairpersons of Theology departments.

- IV. Eren Branch noted that the Executive Committee had decided, rather than invite a speaker this year, to have a series of roundtable discussions. Three specific topics were chosen; the first was introduced by Bob Nikolai.

Bob noted that proverbial shrinking of our planet has led to the internationalization of the graduate curriculum, perhaps moreso in the social sciences than in other areas. Concurrent with this change is a renewed interest in foreign languages at the graduate level, partly because of the internationalization phenomenon itself, but as "tools" of research as well. Undergraduate enrollments in language-coursework are also up. Time and resources to offer the translational training that graduate students are demanding seem to be in short supply in language-departments, particularly in some of the classical languages. Saint Louis University is searching for an efficient approach to this problem, perhaps involving cooperation with other institutions and/or "distance learning." Peter Diffley and Patricia DeLeeuw said that their universities are offering language-courses for graduate students during summer sessions. Williard Gingerich remarked that language-capability is just part of the total educational goal if a student is to fully interact in a foreign country or with colleagues there; he referred to an center for study of languages and cultures that has been established at St. John's University.

Eren then introduced Father Lynch who spoke briefly about issues pertaining to academic integrity with reference to actions both in the classroom and in research and writing endeavors. Michael Lawler suggested that problems of honesty in completing coursework-requirements exist in our institutions as well as in secular colleges and universities. Several participants commented that codes of ethics for graduate students are often those of the institution as a whole, but are written primarily for undergraduates. Diane Wilson said that, because of an incident occurring at UND several years ago, the Graduate School at Notre Dame prepared a code of academic integrity that is now included in the graduate catalog. The activities of Institutional Review Boards were discussed briefly. Willard Gingerich commented that, in recognition of the dignity of the human person, regulations pertaining to research involving human subjects at St. John's University are more strict than required by Federal granting agencies.

Eren Branch said that Elizabeth O'Connell was to introduce the third discussion-topic, but in Elizabeth's absence she would do so. Eren indicated that she was interested in learning about policies and procedures pertaining to nondiscrimination, in evaluating applicants as well as prospective employees, at colleges and universities other than her own. Several participants commented on nondiscrimination-statements contained in their graduate catalogs. Attention turned to the matter of sexual orientation. Gay

and lesbian groups had organized, or were attempting to, on some Association-member campuses. Several institutions had refused to recognize such groups from the standpoint that they condone behavior that is contrary to the teachings of the Church.

- V. Eren Branch noted that her term as Chairperson comes to an end this evening; she also remarked that Jane Norton's three-year term on the Executive Committee has concluded. Eren asked for a report from Father Lynch representing the Nominating Committee. Fr. Lynch indicated that Edward Jennerich has agreed to run for the position of Chairperson and Patricia DeLeeuw to stand for a position on the Executive Committee. He commented that he only realized this evening that if Edward is elected, a vacancy is then created on the Executive Committee. Eren asked for nominations for the position of Chairperson from the floor. No additional nominees were proposed. Edward Jennerich was then elected to a two-year term as Association Chairperson by acclamation. Eren then asked for additional nominees from the floor for the Executive Committee. No responses were forthcoming. Patricia was then elected by acclamation. Eren noted that another member was needed for the Executive Committee. Michael Lawler was asked to accept the position. He declined, announcing that he has resigned his deanship, effective at the end of the academic year. Elizabeth O'Connell (University of San Diego) was proposed. Eren Branch thought that Elizabeth would accept the position. The consensus was to offer the third position on the Executive Committee (for the remainder of Ed's term: two years) to Elizabeth O'Connell.
- VI. Eren Branch inquired if anyone wished to bring an item of new business before the Association. Bob Nikolai said that following a telephone-conversation he was sent a FAX regarding the presently open position of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at DePaul University (Chicago); he indicated he would copy the FAX for anyone possibly interested in the position. (No additional items of new business were introduced.)
- VII. Eren Branch said that she had enjoyed her experience as Chairperson of the Association and the cooperation and efforts received from the Executive Committee and the Secretary-Treasurer. She then greeted Edward Jennerich as the new AGSCCU Chairperson.
- VIII. Edward Jennerich suggested adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at approximately 7:30 p.m. (and immediately followed by dinner served in the same room).