

*Association of Graduate Schools  
in Catholic Colleges and Universities*

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
of Friday, December 11, 1998**

**Cafe Il Nido  
Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA**

- I. Peter Diffley, 1997-99 Chairperson of the Association, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He welcomed everyone and asked the member-institution representatives present who had not previously attended these annual meetings to introduce themselves. Individuals participating in this meeting and their institutional affiliations were

Trevor Bechtel	Loyola University - Chicago
Barbara Braden	Creighton University
James Brennan	Loyola University - Chicago
Edward Cooper	Regis University
Benedict DeCicco	Catholic University of America
Timothy Dickel	Creighton University
Peter Diffley	University of Notre Dame
Tracy Foxworth	Loyola University - Chicago
Willard Gingerich	St. John's University
Marianne Gramza	Loyola University - Chicago
Robert Himmelberg	Fordham University
Russell Kitchner	University of Notre Dame
Katy Marre	University of Dayton
Robert Nikolai	Saint Louis University
Janice Poorman	University of Notre Dame
Robert Powell	University of Scranton
James Schaefer	Georgetown University
Michael Slusser	Duquesne University
Jacqueline Taylor	DePaul University

(A draft of the Minutes of the Association's annual meeting of December 4, 1997, was circulated by mail in early 1998 for review. No revisions were requested. The Minutes were then presumed acceptable as prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer, and they were included in the agenda mailing for this evening's meeting.)

- II. Peter Diffley asked Bob Nikolai, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, to provide status reports on membership, the organization's treasury, and the Candidates' Booklet.

Bob Nikolai reported that twenty-six institutions had paid full-membership dues and three associate-membership dues for 1998-99. Two long-standing members of the Association, Holy Names College (CA) and St. Bonaventure University (NY) have not paid dues to date. He had copies of the membership report available for those institutions, present this evening, that desired the report.

Bob reported that the Association continues to maintain a checking account in a St. Louis, Missouri, bank. He said that the treasury balance at the beginning (July 1) of the most recently completed fiscal year (1997-98) was \$2,883.36. Income during the year was derived from dues, collections of payments for the dinner after the annual meeting, and assessments from Association members participating in the Candidates' Booklet project. Expenses included dinner after the annual meeting, costs to prepare, publish, and distribute copies of the Booklet, miscellaneous expenses for mailings and telephone calls, and the bank's service charges. The treasury balance as of July 1, 1998, was \$3,173.80. Bob made written copies of his report, including a summary balance sheet and a detail of checking-account activity during FY1998, available to those institutions desiring them.

Bob Nikolai reported on the Candidates' Booklet project completed during the Fall and Winter of 1997-98. He indicated that nine universities participated, 213 biographic sketches were included in the booklet, a total of 218 booklets were mailed in mid November 1997 to chief academic officers at Catholic colleges and universities across the United States, 513 were mailed in January 1998 to administrators of Catholic grade and high schools across the U.S., and additional copies were sent to participating institutions and in response to individual requests received. A total of 950 copies were printed. The costs of the Booklet project, borne by the participating institutions, totalled approximately \$1,129. Approximately 46% of the biographees indicated that they would consider grade- or high-school faculty positions. Bob also brought to this evening's meeting several copies of the new edition of the booklet; he noted that this edition of the booklet and the mailing to college/university academic vice presidents had been completed several weeks ago. He remarked that Marquette University did not participate this past Fall and sketches from St. John's University were few, related to recent installation of a new computer system; the result was a decrease in the total number of usable sketches provided to about 160. Peter Diffley suggested that, during 1999, he and Bob Nikolai would attempt, through the resources of their offices, to create an Internet/Web site for the Association and, within it, an electronic version of the Candidates' Booklet.

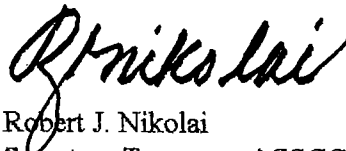
Finally, Bob announced that he had with him copies of the Association's updated mailing list and of the Association's constitution, if any member institutions present wished to obtain copies of either or both documents.

- III. Peter Diffley reported for the nominations committee. His second year and term as Chairman of the Association ends on June 30, 1999. Willard Gingerich's term on the Executive Committee ends at the same time. The nominations committee has proposed that Bob Himmelberg chair the Association for the next two years (1999-2001). Because Bob is currently on the Executive Committee (with his term there still having two years to run), nominated to serve as Members-at-Large are James Brennan and Michael Smyer (Boston College). Peter inquired if there were any nominations to be offered from the floor. No response was forthcoming. The three nominees were elected, then, by acclamation. (Michael Smyer will serve the remainder of Bob Himmelberg's term. James Brennan was elected for three years. Barbara Braden has one more year to serve on the Executive Committee.)
  
- IV. The first of two major agenda items for this meeting, as designated by the Executive Committee, pertained to administrative and educational (e.g., via consortia) uses of the Internet. Barbara Braden had accepted the responsibility for this item, and she brought to the meeting and introduced Timothy Dickel, Dean of Continuing Education, Creighton University. Tim indicated that he had recently conducted a survey of Catholic universities regarding Internet activities, focusing on the teaching aspects of the institutional mission and cooperative alliances. Common responses included ethics courses across the curriculum, leadership and values education, attempts to keep class sizes under 25, and emphasizing service to others. As yet, little distance education has been initiated; distance learning seems to be confined to the undergraduate level, to preparing liturgists, and exemplified in faculty orientation. Dean Dickel remarked that Creighton University is preparing a distance-learning protocol to teach scripture, doctrine, and the sacraments to high-school religion teachers in Las Vegas, NV. Ed Cooper, commenting that no Catholic colleges exist in Nevada, said that Regis University intends to deliver, with on-site faculty, business and teacher education coursework in Las Vegas. With reference to cooperative ventures, Tim Dickel's survey indicated that resources are scattered, some sharing is starting, the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities is discussing it, activity is generally limited to the undergraduate level and non-traditional students, and several institutions are jointly preparing grant proposals. The subject was the focus of a recent meeting at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Several attendees at tonight's meeting were aware of a new M.B.A. degree program, involving the majority of the Jesuit institutions, to be offered, beginning in January 1999, in Beijing, P.R. China.
  
- V. The agenda mailing for this meeting had included a four-page proposal for a postdoctoral teaching fellowship program. Peter Diffley reported that the proposal had been presented to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) last Spring for sponsorship. Peter indicated that the program would contribute to two needs: to provide 1) smaller, nondoctoral institutions with a source for temporary, junior faculty; and 2) first, full-time academic employment for the new Ph.D. recipient and a potential springboard toward a permanent faculty position. He said that discussion at this meeting is sought toward endorsement of the proposal in principle and for suggestions regarding the form of the contract. Peter then gave the floor to Russell Kitchner. Russell said that, although the proposal was drafted at the University of Notre Dame, it is intended as a Catholic colleges and universities initiative. He remarked that the proposal concept has been published in the

ACCU Newsletter, and positive responses have been received from institutions that would supply the fellows as well as those that would offer postdoctoral opportunities. Bob Powell inquired if, as the fellow's tenure was coming to a close, would both the Ph.D.-granting and postdoctoral institutions assist the fellow toward securing a permanent faculty position. Kathy Marre wondered if the postdoctoral institution might take advantage of the fellow, assigning extraordinary responsibilities that would limit opportunities for scholarship and publication. Jacqueline Taylor asked if the program would create the bias toward filling postdoctoral positions with Catholics. Would such a program involving two sets of Catholic institutions affect the marketability of the individual ending such a postdoctoral fellowship? Willard Gingerich commented that the St. John's University faculty are unionized, and their contract says that any faculty member employed full-time for three consecutive years is automatically on the tenure track. He spoke in favor of the concept, and suggested as a reference a recent Association of American Universities report on postdoctoral programs. James Brennan recommended study of an Emory University postdoctoral model; he wondered about the relative employment potentials, immediately after receipt of the Ph.D. degree versus following a short-term stint at an institution with a lesser Carnegie Foundation rating.

- VI. Peter Diffley noted that the Cafe personnel were about ready to serve dinner. He inquired if any institutional representative desired to introduce an item of new business; hearing no response, he adjourned the formal part of the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Nikolai  
Secretary-Treasurer, AGSCCU