

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS
IN CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1999

*STATE ROOM
OF THE J. W. MARRIOTT HOTEL*

6:15 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (Robert Himmelberg, Chairman)
2. Minutes of the December 18, 1998, Meeting; Membership Report; Treasurer's Report (Robert Nikolai, Secretary-Treasurer)
3. The New AGSCCU Website (Peter Diffley and Robert Nikolai)
4. "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" as Amended, the Recent Actions of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, and Implications for Graduate Theological Teaching and Study (Monika Hellwig)
5. Enhancing the Catholic Identity of the Catholic University (Robert Himmelberg)
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Election of Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee
9. Adjournment to Dinner (8 p.m.)

*Association of Graduate Schools
in Catholic Colleges and Universities*

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of Friday, December 2, 1999**

**State Room, J.W. Marriott Hotel
Washington, DC**

- I. Dean Robert Himmelberg, elected a year ago as the Chairperson of the Association for the 1999-2001 period, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He welcomed everyone and led self-introductions. He then announced that was retiring from the Graduate Dean's position at Fordham University at the end of this academic year and, as a result, he would not serve the second year as Association Chairperson. Individuals participating in this meeting and their institutional affiliations were

James Brennan	Loyola University - Chicago
Matilda Bruckner	Boston College
Marsha Buresch	Saint Louis University
Max Caproni	Loyola University - Chicago
Edward Cooper	Regis University
Peter Cimboric	Catholic University of America
Marsha Daley	John Carroll University
Peter Diffley	University of Notre Dame
Monika Hellwig	Assoc of Catholic Colleges, Universities
Robert Himmelberg	Fordham University
Katy Marre	University of Dayton
James Merz	University of Notre Dame
Robert Nikolai	Saint Louis University
Robert Powell	University of Scranton
Gordon Sargent	University of Dayton
James Schaefer	Georgetown University
Michael Smyer	Boston College
Barbara Turpin	University of Notre Dame
Thomas Zlatoper	John Carroll University

(A draft of the Minutes of the Association's annual meeting of December 11, 1998, was circulated by mail in early 1999 for review. No revisions were requested by attendees. The Minutes were then presumed acceptable as prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer, and they were included in the agenda mailing in anticipation of this evening's meeting.)

- II. Bob Nikolai, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, provided status reports on membership and the organization's treasury. He reported that twenty-seven institutions had paid full-membership dues and one associate-membership dues for 1999-2000. One, long-standing member of the Association, Spalding University (KY), has not paid dues to date. Bob then 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 (1998-99) was \$3,173.80. Income during the year was derived from dues, collections of payments for the dinner after the annual meeting, and assessments from nine Association members participating in the Candidates' Booklet project. Expenses included dinner after the annual meeting, costs to prepare, publish, and distribute/mail copies of the Booklet, a portion of the total cost to establish a Website, miscellaneous expenses for mailings and telephone calls, and the bank's service charges. The treasury balance as of July 1, 1999, was \$2,657.39. Bob made an abbreviated report on last year's edition of the Candidates' Booklet project. He noted that the number of biographic sketches published was 160, down from a year ago. He trimmed apparent duplicates from the distribution of Booklets to grade- and high-school hiring officers. The cost of the project was about \$937. Bob made written copies of his reports and updated Association-member mailing/communications lists available to those institutional representatives desiring them.
- III. Peter Diffley distributed copies of pages from the Association's new Website. The site was designed and created by a knowledgeable graduate assistant at the University of Notre Dame with input from Bob Nikolai and Peter Diffley. The URL is "www.nd.edu/~agscu." The site introduces the visitor to the AGSCCU, lists the members of the Executive Committee and the member institutions and deans, and it contains frameworks for four databases. Pairs of databases will be available to degree candidates from member institutions seeking teaching/faculty positions and to prospective employers. One database of each pair will contain input data, and the other will accommodate searches. The Website will be announced to degree candidates on AGSCCU-member campuses on December 15, and an announcement will be mailed to prospective employers in January (after a substantial database of candidates' sketches has been established). The candidates' database will replace the Booklet. Both input databases will be purged annually. A number of items and issues were discussed including policing of and security for the databases, the Graduate Dean's responsibility for screening candidates using the databases, announcements of the Website in various communications/newsletters, permitting recent graduates and postdocs to use the databases, eliminating the database-entry pertaining to religion, and not to exclude Master's candidates from access to the Website.
- IV. Robert Himmelberg introduced Monika Hellwig, executive director of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, to the assembled institutional representatives. Before beginning her presentation on "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," she spoke enthusiastically of the Association's Website and the electronic forum for exchanges between prospective academic employees and employers. Dr. Hellwig then reiterated that, at its meeting in Washington in mid-November, the National Council of Catholic Bishops, in a substantial majority vote approved a fifth draft of Ex Corde Ecclesiae. In anticipation of the Bishops' meeting,

about a month before it, the Bishops received the fourth version of the document initially drafted in 1990. The fourth draft was amended at the recent meeting before the vote to adopt. The approved version contains some generalizations of key items, and the document will be widely circulated. Perhaps the most controversial aspect is the "mandatum," yet to be fully defined---the responsibility of the Bishops---within which theology faculty will apparently be required to formally request from the local Ordinary approval to discuss theological issues in the college classroom. Not only the faculty themselves, but also their department/major-field chairpersons and college deans are expected to incur responsibility for what is taught by way of Catholic theology. Of concern are possible encroachment on academic freedom and depression of open theological dialogue in Catholic higher-education institutions. Additional possible controversies pertain to professions/pledges of fidelity, church versus state, revisions of institutional mission statements and constitutions, and private versus university lives of theology faculty. Portions of the document as written are open to interpretation, and the Bishops are expected to compromise on some issues; some key items are contained in footnotes. After this latest version of the document is in final form and transmitted to Rome, a decision on acceptance or rejection will probably take six months or so. If Rome approves it, implementation may occur over a decade or longer. Dr. Hellwig responded to questions during and after her presentation. On behalf of the AGSCCU, Dean Himmelberg expressed our appreciation to Dr. Hellwig for coming to this evening's meeting and addressing the participants.

- V. Robert Himmelberg noted that Barbara Braden from Creighton University is completing a three-year term as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee of the Association. Edward Cooper from Regis University was nominated for the Executive Committee position to be vacated by Barbara Braden. Dean Himmelberg reminded the attendees of his impending retirement. James Brennan (Loyola University - Chicago) was nominated to serve the second year of Robert Himmelberg's term as Association Chairman. Dean Brennan's nomination was noted by Bob Nikolai as potentially creating a vacancy on the Executive Committee, inasmuch as he (James Brennan) has two years yet to serve on the Committee. Peter Cimboric was nominated to fill that position. The three nominees were elected by acclamation. (Michael Smyer of Boston College, the third Member-at-Large, has another year to serve on the Executive Committee.)
- VI. The time was becoming short before the group was due at dinner at a restaurant a short walk from the Hotel. The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at a few minutes past 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Nikolai
Secretary-Treasurer, AGSCCU