

*Association of Graduate Schools
in Catholic Colleges and Universities*

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

December 7, 2000

Clairborne Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana

- I. With the Chairperson's position vacant, Robert Nikolai, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. He welcomed participants and led self-introductions. Representatives of member institutions present were

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| Terrence Akai | University of Notre Dame |
| Mary Beadle | John Carroll University |
| Frank Biafore | St. John's University |
| Donald Brennan | Saint Louis University |
| Barbara Braden | Creighton University |
| Nancy Busch | Fordham University |
| Max Caproni | Loyola University – Chicago |
| Elizabeth Chadwick | Boston College |
| Andrew Chludzinski | Loyola University – Chicago |
| Marsha Daley | John Carroll University |
| Peter Diffley | University of Notre Dame |
| Gerald Long | Villanova University |
| Katy Marre | University of Dayton |
| Robert Nikolai | Saint Louis University |
| James Powell | University of Notre Dame |
| Gordon Sargent | University of Dayton |
| Rose Sebastianelli | University of Scranton |
| Michael Smyer | Boston College |

A guest at the meeting was David Rowland, Graduate Dean, Valparaiso University.

- II. Bob Nikolai reported that a draft of the Minutes of the December 2, 1999, annual meeting was distributed to participating institutional representatives some months ago for critical review. With no comments received, the draft was assumed approved. Copies of the Minutes were included in the dues mailing (in August 2000) to those member institutions not represented at the 1999 annual meeting.

Bob Nikolai reported that, to date, twenty-six full members have remitted dues for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. Three institutions, dues-paying in 1999-2000, have not as yet responded to the invoice-mailing (Assumption College [MA], Gannon University [PA], and Santa Clara University [CA]), and one institution that didn't pay dues last year has done so for FY01 (Spalding University [KY]). Copies of the membership report were made available to meeting-participants.

Bob Nikolai reviewed the two-page, Treasurer's annual report: a balance sheet and a checking-account detail. As of July 1, 1999, the checking-account balance was \$2,657.39. Major income items were dues-payments. A major expenditure was a stipend payment to a Notre Dame graduate assistant for establishment of the Association's Website. The closing balance on June 30, 2000, was \$2,208.07. Copies of the Treasurer's report were made available.

- III. Peter Diffley provided an overview of the Association's Website, established during the summer 1999. His remarks focused on the four-part database that forms an electronic, jobs bulletin-board. Entries from degree candidates seeking faculty positions and institutions with positions to fill, posted in 1999, have been purged. Announcements of opportunities to post positions-wanted have been made thru several venues, and presently only about 115 resumes of advanced-degree candidates have been entered. A current thrust is to attract positions-available entries; only nine are now posted. Links have been established with the ACCU and the NCEA. Member institutions should advise their career-placement and human-relations offices to connect with the Website. Entries of institutional positions available may have to be made, keyed in, from graduate-school offices. Bob Nikolai will get in touch with the AJCU to establish a "Jesuit" linkage.
- IV. Bob Nikolai recalled the address by Monika Hellwig, ACCU Executive Director, at last year's annual meeting in the wake of the approval by the U.S. Bishops of the Ex Corde Ecclesiae implementation proposal after nearly a decade of discussion. Since November 1999, specifically on May 3, 2000, the Holy See formally recognized and approved the proposal. From this date, the Bishops have one year to implement the contents of the document. Much work has been done and remains to be completed in the twelve-month period, in particular with regard to the *mandatum*. A committee of Bishops and a group of consultants to them have been appointed to determine the criteria and process for the *mandatum*. Mick Smyer wondered if any member institutions have been contacted by their Ordinaries. Don Brennan remarked that relations are strained between the President of Saint Louis University and the Archbishop of Saint Louis in the wake of SLU's sale of its hospitals to a for-profit agency (Tenet). Barbara Braden said that the mode at Creighton University regarding the *mandatum* issue is "disconcerting."

- V. Peter Diffley, recently elected to the executive committee of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools, spoke to the need for active participation of the members of the AGSCCU in the national and regional graduate-deans organizations. He urged representatives to apply to serve on committees of these bodies and to use the network within the AGSCCU to discuss current issues on the agendas of these organizations. Max Caproni suggested that an issue that has been important in public, secular, higher-education institutions, and is now encroaching on the larger private universities, is that of unionization of faculty and of graduate assistants. Don Brennan remarked that he has been asked to speak to a committee of Saint Louis U's trustees on the subject of graduate-assistant unionization. A discussion of health insurance as a perk within the graduate-assistantship package ensued. Don Brennan suggested that health insurance is an important issue associated with potential graduate-assistant organization. Peter Diffley also indicated that the AGSCCU should have an obligation to connect with the smaller Catholic higher-education institutions. Bob Nikolai proposed that each AGSCCU member seek out one potential recruit Catholic college or university toward enlargement of our membership.
- VI. Peter Diffley, Past Chairperson of the AGSCCU, recalled that the position of Chairperson of the Association was vacated when Jim Brennan became Arts and Sciences Dean at the University of Louisville. Bob Nikolai reported that Mick Smyer's term on the Executive Committee expires now and that Ed Cooper of Regis University is leaving there to take a new position in January 2001 at a Florida institution. Peter and Bob, serving as a nominating committee, contacted Mick Symer regarding his interest in a two-year term as Chairperson, and Marsha Daley and Gordon Sargent with reference to membership on the Executive Committee as Members-at-Large. All three replied that they would accept nominations. The slate was offered to the representatives present. No nominations were offered from the floor, and the three were elected by acclamation. Marsha will assume a three-year term (replacing Mick Smyer). Gordon accepts a two-year term (replacing Ed Cooper). Peter Cimboric from Catholic University of America has one more year remaining on the Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large.
- VII. Bob Nikolai inquired if any representatives wished to report from their institutions. Mick Smyer wondered if anyone was involved with issues of graduate-student health-care access. Nancy Busch said that health insurance for graduate assistants is a sizable topic of discussion at Fordham University. Peter Diffley said that differences between academic schedules, undergraduate versus graduate students, is a topic of conversation at Notre Dame; graduate students think they should not be subjected to limitations in access when undergraduate classes are not in session. He also remarked that UND does not include health insurance in

their assistantship packages, and a sizable increase in student-insurance premiums is coming next year. Don Brennan suggested that a push for graduate-assistant unionization is absent at SLU because of the existence of the health-insurance perk. Barbara Braden commented that at Creighton U only graduate assistants in doctoral programs have their health-insurance premium paid by the Graduate School. Max Caproni spoke about the benefits of student insurance (Megalife) at Loyola U – Chicago versus taking advantage of its health/medical-center services. Elizabeth Chadwick commented briefly on the transition in health insurance and benefits from those of the undergraduate student to those of the graduate student.

- VIII. Bob Nikolai inquired if anyone wished to introduce an item of new business. No one responded. The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent at 7:10 p.m. Bob reviewed the plans for transportation to the French Quarter site of the dinner following the meeting.