

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS  
IN CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

*ANNUAL MEETING*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2002

CANNON ROOM  
J. W. MARRIOTT HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC

6:10 P.M.

*AGENDA*

1. Welcome (Mick Smyer, Chairman), Introductions, Brief reports of current major issues on our campuses
2. Principal discussion item: Catholicity in Catholic graduate education
3. Structure, function of the AGSCCU: Constitution/By-laws revisited?
4. Update on the Association's Website (Peter Diffley)
5. Reports: 2001 Minutes; 2002 membership; Finances (Bob Nikolai)
6. Elections of new Chairman and two Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee
7. New business
8. Adjournment to dinner (7:45 p.m.)

*Association of Graduate Schools  
in Catholic Colleges and Universities*

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

December 5, 2002  
Cannon Room, J.W. Marriott Hotel  
Washington, DC

1. In the absence of the Association Chairman, Michael Smyer, the meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Peter Diffley (Past Chairman) and Bob Nikolai (Secretary-Treasurer). Joseph Stankavage, the new director of operations for the ACCU, is attending as a guest of the Executive Committee. Participants were welcomed *en masse* and individually introduced themselves. Representatives of member-institutions present were

Frank Biafora	St. John's University
Nancy Busch	Fordham University
Peter Cimboric	Catholic University of America
Peter Diffley	University of Notre Dame
Anne Donnellan	University of San Diego
Adrian Dumas	Assumption College
Marianne Gramza	Loyola University – Chicago
Rev. Kevin Hanbury	Seton Hall University
Candace Hetzner	Boston College
Chake Kouyoumjian	Loyola Marymount University
Gerald Long	Villanova University
Patrick McGuire	St. John's University
Robert Nikolai	Saint Louis University
Michael O'Neill	Gannon University
Duncan Perry	University of Scranton
Donald Pope-Davis	University of Notre Dame
Gordon Sargent	University of Dayton
James Schaefer	Georgetown University
Joseph Stankavage	Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

- II. Bob Nikolai invited each of the attendees to briefly report on current events at their institutions likely of interest to the group. Of the sixteen colleges and universities represented, seven (Villanova, Gannon, St. John's, Notre Dame, Loyola Marymount, and Saint Louis) reported being somewhere in the extended process of strategic planning followed by a capital campaign or having just successfully completed a campaign (Dayton). Four institutions (Loyola-Chicago, San Diego,

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Dayton, and Fordham) have new central administrators or are searching for new presidents. Five universities are collaborating with or have recently acquired or joined/merged with other schools (Fordham/Marymount, St. John's/St. Thomas Aquinas, Scranton/school in Mexico, Dayton/Wright State, and St. John's with three other schools in a doctoral program). Seton Hall has been awarded a large grant from the Lilly Endowment. Assumption College has discontinued its Master's degree program in Theology. Georgetown wants to become more of a research university and will add and/or blend doctoral programs. St. John's is transforming from a commuter to more of a residential institution and has hired a new international director. Notre Dame's capital campaign will fund new faculty hires, pilot research, diversity, and four years of support for graduate assistants. Catholic University has been invited to join the AACU (Am Assoc Coll Univ), is focusing and downsizing at the doctoral level, and is reorganizing its religious-studies and canon-law offerings. Boston College's chemistry and physics departments are receiving good press, the physical definition of the institution is the envy of Boston University, and BC has begun a two-year project entitled "The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Loyola-Chicago wants to increase its Master's degree offerings, will decrease the number of faculty approved for dissertation-mentoring, and is erecting a new life-sciences building. San Diego has decentralized its graduate administration and has a new peace-and-justice Master's degree. Loyola Marymount is revising its graduate educational structure, adding graduate assistants, and will offer its first doctoral program---in educational leadership. Fordham is integrating the unionized Marymount faculty with its own arts-and-sciences faculty and has written a new graduate-school mission-statement.

- III. The principal discussion item for the evening was Catholicity in Catholic Graduate Education. Bob Nikolai introduced the topic by hypothesizing that our institutions tend to focus their Catholicity on the undergraduate students, and centralized attention to faith, community, and service among our graduate students may be largely absent. He reported briefly on a funded project at Saint Louis University called "Voices," aimed at promoting a sense of vocation in the campus community, and an example endeavor involving faculty and graduate students in the philosophy department. Nancy Busch made note of a series of Cardinal Newman seminars offered at Fordham, jointly by the graduate and law schools; she commented on possible discipline-specific definitions of Catholicity and wondered if a graduate core-offering would be appropriate. Don Pope-Davis drew attention to the difference between Catholic and catholic and mentioned companion-issues of social justice and ethics; he also spoke toward a graduate core course in Christian ethics. Rev. Hanbury remarked that an ethics requirement exists in every graduate major at Seton Hall; he suggested that faculty and administration must support the need for such instruction and dialogue. Peter Cimboic reminded the group of the potential conflict between Catholic identity and academic freedom. Nancy

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Busch said that the issues of Catholic identity and respect for persons at Fordham are discussed in interviews with prospective faculty. Candace Hetzner suggested that at Boston College the graduate students seem to want more Catholicity; their regular Friday Masses are well attended. Father Hanbury spoke about Catholicity and nontraditional courses and reported that Seton Hall students attend weekend Masses there in large numbers. Duncan Perry wondered if and how to address Catholicity in the mission-statement of the graduate school. Anne Donnellan downplayed the need for explicitness; she proposed that a spirit of Catholicity is felt at San Diego, and the need to study it at the graduate level is questionable.

- IV. Bob Nikolai reported that the Association is formally 35 years old. The constitution of the AGSCCU in its original form was adopted in Chicago on November 30, 1967. Since then, the Constitution has been revised five times, most recently on December 5, 1990, when dues were initiated. Sections of the Constitution include the name and goals of the organization, two levels of membership, voting procedures, officers and the executive committee and the duties and powers of the latter, committees, meetings, limitations of powers, dues, and procedures toward amendment of the document. Bob Nikolai suggested that, because the Association last reviewed its constitution twelve years ago, it may simply be time to take another look at the document. Suggested was that the Constitution be transmitted electronically to the member institutions for an initial cursory critique. The census agreed that the document should be communicated with the Minutes of this evening's meeting.
- V. Peter Diffley reported that the Association's Website remains in place, managed by graduate-school staff at the University of Notre Dame: [www.nd.edu/~agscu](http://www.nd.edu/~agscu). Importantly the Website includes a teaching-positions bulletin-board, and the recent thrust has been to increase the number of open faculty positions advertised on the site. In this regard, Peter's office last year contacted many of the Association's graduate-program chairpersons. At the present time, the largest number of students, anticipating 2003 degree-conferrals, with resumes on the site toward attracting potential employers, is Boston College, but numbers of students' biographic sketches are expected to increase markedly early in 2003. He encouraged the publicizing of the bulletin-board on the campuses of the individual Association members---for positions open and well as sought. Master's as well as Doctoral candidates are welcome to post their resumes on the electronic board.
- VI. Bob Nikolai reported that only eleven attendees representing nine Association members were present for the annual meeting on December 6, 2001, in San Diego. The Minutes of that meeting was initially sent to the attendee institutions for critical review. No comments of note were received; the Minutes were

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assumed approved and were distributed in the late summer as one of the attachments to the electronic dues-notice. Bob also reported that, following the dues-notice and a subsequent reminder, twenty-two Full and one Associate institutional members have paid dues for 2002-03. Several institutions, remaining to date on the Association's mailing list, have not as yet paid dues for this year: College of New Rochelle, Gannon University, John Carroll University, Regis University, St. Joseph's University, and Spalding University. No new members have been recruited during the past year. In addition, Bob reported on the fiscal health of the Association. The AGSCCU began FY2002 (July 1, 2001) with \$3006.39 in a checking account. Financial activity during the year was minimal. Dues payments for last year combined with expenses/disbursements left the account with a net increase to \$3,663.15 on June 30, 2002.

- VII. Bob Nikolai noted that Michael Smyer's two-year term as Chairman of the Association ends on June 30, 2003. Marsha Daley resigned from the Executive Committee last Spring concurrent with her departure from graduate-school administration. Continuing members of the Executive Committee and their term-ending years are Gordon Sargent (2004; "absorbing" Marsha's last year) and Max Caproni of Loyola-Chicago (2005). Peter Diffley nominated, as the new Chairman, Peter Cimboric and, as the new member-at-large of the Executive Committee, Nancy Busch. Both agreed to serve if elected. Bob Nikolai asked for additional nominations from the floor. None was forthcoming. Peter Cimboric and Nancy Busch were then elected by acclamation. Michael Smyer will become on July 1<sup>st</sup> the Past Chairman, succeeding Peter Diffley.
- VIII. Bob Nikolai inquired if any representative desired to introduce an item of new business. No response was forthcoming.
- IX. The formal portion of the meeting was adjourned. Nineteen representatives and spouses/guests subsequently gathered in the Hotel lobby and walked together the short distance to Les Halles restaurant for dinner. (Note: Item IV of these Minutes was actually covered in a brief discussion at the restaurant.)