

60th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Philosophical Association
February 5-6 2010, Mississippi State University, Starkville MS

Minutes of Annual Business Meeting

A) The business meeting was held February 6, 2010 from 12:45-1:15 in Foster Ballroom M, Colvard Student Union, Mississippi State University.

B) Members present: Eric Weber, The University of Mississippi (President); Trisha Phillips, Mississippi State University (Vice-President); Neil Manson, The University of Mississippi (Secretary-Treasurer); Steven Skultety, The University of Mississippi; Bill Lawhead, The University of Mississippi; Robert Barnard, The University of Mississippi

C) The meeting began with a note of thanks to Trisha Phillips for organizing an excellent conference and for getting tremendous support from Mississippi State University. The theme, "Environmental Ethics," drew participants from throughout the country, including SUNY-Buffalo, Texas A&M-Galveston, the University of North Florida, Clemson University, and Clemson University. The keynote presentation by J. Baird Callicott drew an audience of well over a hundred, and this on a Friday night. Twenty-three philosophers registered for the conference. Prizes of \$75 were awarded to the two graduate student presenters: Tibor Solymosi of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Dustin Nelson of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Overall the event was one of the biggest and most energetic in MPA history.

D) The officers for next year will be Trisha Phillips, President; John Bickle, Mississippi State University, Vice-President; and Neil Manson, Secretary-Treasurer. Next year's conference will be held at Mississippi State University. The theme will be "Political Libertarianism." It was also suggested that the 2011-12 meeting be at Millsaps College on the theme "Philosophy of Religion" and be organized by Steven Smith, and that the 2012-13 meeting be at Mississippi State on the theme "Philosophy and Nanotechnology" and be organized by Bart Moffatt.

E) The bank balance of the MPA as of the start of the meeting was \$341.55. \$150 was paid out in the form of student prizes, and \$1490 was collected in the form of conference registration fees, dues, and dinner fees. This leaves us with a balance of \$1681.55. Trisha Phillips will let us know shortly if there are any outstanding bills for this year's conference that need to be paid.

F) Eric Weber made several proposals. All of them were approved by the members present. The proposals were:

- 1) that a survey of our members be taken regarding whether or not to raise membership dues to \$25;
- 2) that a survey of our members be taken regarding what services the MPA would do and what sort of functions/events it should sponsor, if any, beyond the annual meeting;
- 3) that the MPA create a Google calendar that links up with the Google calendars of every philosophy department in the state of Mississippi so that there would be a calendar of philosophical events state-wide;

4) that, rather than select the new Vice President at the annual business meeting, a new method be agreed for selection of the Vice President of the MPA – seeking nominations of potential VPs from department chairs prior to the business meeting; and
5) that we establish a way for dues to be paid online via use of PayPal.

G) Neil Manson suggested that the MPA create a category “student member of the MPA.” After collecting contact information from interested students statewide, we could set up an listserv to (a) publicize future MPA events, and (b) inform undergraduate majors of scholarships, job opportunities, and conferences.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.

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