

RhetCanada/CSSR

Annual General Meeting

Date: September 3rd 2024, 3 p.m. EDT

Location: Online

Attendees

Jonathan Doering, Bruce Dadey, Jeffrey Orr, Kyle Gerber, Sarah Casey, Sean Zwagerman, Monique Kampher, Brad Mehlenbacher, Tess Laidlaw, Julie Dainville, Shauna MacDonald, Iain Macpherson, Shannon Lodoen, David Beard, Douglas Hayes, Wendy Shilton, Andrea Valente, Randy Harris, Benoit Sans

Meeting called to order by Jon Doering at 3:05 p.m. EDT

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda
 - a. Motion to approve: Bruce Dadey
 - b. Second: Jeffrey Orr
2. Approval of 2023 AGM minutes
 - a. Motion: Monique Kampher
 - b. Second: Shannon Lodoen
3. Reports
 - a. President's Report (Jonathan Doering)
 - b. Secretary-Treasurer's report (Kyle Gerber)
 - c. Rhetor Editor's report (Bruce Dadey/Julie Dainville)
4. Motion to receive the reports
 - a. Motion to approve: Benoit Sans
 - b. Second: Douglas Hayes

Committees and elections

5. Executive committee elections
 - a. Secretary-Treasurer: Kyle Gerber acclaimed as Secretary-Treasurer
 - b. Rhetor Co-editor to replace interim editor: Sean Zwagerman acclaimed as co-editor
 - c. Student Member: Sarah Casey acclaimed as Student Member
 - d. Member at Large: Monique Kampher acclaimed as Member at Large

e. Co-webmaster: Shannon Lodoen acclaimed as co-webmaster

6. Advisory committee (3 members)

- a. Jeffrey Orr
- b. Tess Laidlaw
- c. Randy Harris
- d. Brad Mehlenbacher

All four acclaimed as Advisory Committee Members

7. Conference planning committee

- a. Fatima Zohra
- b. Daniel Raines
- c. Kavi Duvvooi
- d. Monique Kampher (GTA location scout)

8. Student prize committee

- a. Tess Laidlaw
- b. David Beard
- c. Bruce Dadey
- d. Benoît Sans (for papers in French)

All four acclaimed as Student Prize Committee

9. Promotion and Development:

- a. Wendy Shilton
- b. Shannon Lodoen

10. 2025 conference (George Brown College, Toronto)

- a. Theme
 - B) Proposed themes:
 - 1. What's Rhetoric Got to do With it?
 - 2. Rhetoric and Generative AI
 - 3. Rhetoric Across Cultures
 - 4. Rhetoric and the Future of Academia
 - 5. Rhetoric and Work
 - 6. Rhetoric and Hope
 - 7. Rhetoric as a Mode of Inquiry
 - 8. The Rhetorical First Aid Kit
 - 9. Ancient Contemporary Rhetorics: A Dialogue
 - 10. Rhetoric and Complexity

Rhetorical First Aid Kit selected as theme, with understanding

that the CFP would develop clarity and subthemes.

- b. Discussion of dual conference system and potential improvements

11. Major news items and initiatives

- a. December event, other events
 - B) 12 December 2024 – Ancient Greek Sophistry and Its Legacy – with Michael McDonald
 - 1. RhetCanada provides audience and platform (ie. Zoom)
 - 2. Organizer gathers the content and presenters
- b. Rhetor publication format
 - B) Sean and Julie will chat about format options for *Rhetor* and report back to RhetCanada
- c. Books/book series
 - B) David reported on a meeting with University of Regina Press regarding options for publishing opportunities (a collection, or book series)
- d. Abstract management software
 - B) Jon reported on fourwaves that would help administrate conference planning and scheduling and communicating, and will follow up with secretary-treasurer regarding financial feasibility.
- e. Brand design work
 - B) RhetCanada benefitted from design work by John Hogenbirk, which will be deployed over the next few years
- f. Membership research platform
 - B) Jon proposed trying out a private LinkedIn group to support research and collaboration, and then perhaps connecting it to a larger public group. (For example, see First Person Scholar’s use of LinkedIn.)

12. Other initiatives and discussions (time allowing)

Motion to adjourn meeting: David Beard

Second: Jeffrey Orr

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m. EDT

Post-meeting discussion

- Dealing with growth
 - o Tighten up post-panel discussion to be more focussed

- More lightning papers; pre-“published” papers followed up with live discussion, more roundtables
- Earlier CFPs can lead to more travel resources for presenters