

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the New Chaucer Society  
July 10, 2016**

**Queen Mary University of London**

In attendance: Susan Crane (President, 2014-2016) [SC]; Ardis Butterfield (Trustee, 2012-2016; President-elect 2016-2018) [ArBu]; Trustees: Anthony Bale (2016-2020) [AnBa]; Candace Barrington (2014-2018) [CB]; Alexandra Gillespie (2014-2018) [AG]; Tom Hahn (2012-2016) [TH]; Simon Horobin (2016-2020) [SH]; Patricia Ingham (2016-2020) [PI]; David Matthews (2014-2018) [DM]; Lynn Staley (2012-2016) [LS]; Sarah Stanbury (2014-2016) [SS]; Emily Steiner (2016-2020, Co-Chair, London Program Committee) [ES]; Ruth Evans (Executive Director) [RE]; Jessica Rezunyk (Administrative Assistant and recording secretary) [JR]; and for individual items: Kellie Robertson (Co-Chair, London Program Committee) [KR]; Stephanie Amsel (NCS Bibliographer) [SA]; Sarah Salih (Editor, SAC) [SSal]; Susanna Fein (Teacher Outreach) [SF]

**The meeting was opened by President Susan Crane at 10:05 am.**

- 1. Welcome and thanks to all (SC)**
- 2. Minutes from the meeting of July 15, 2014**  
Approved, subject to one revision.
- 3. President's Business**
  - i) NCS Postdoctoral Fellowship.** Matched funding from Saint Louis University is guaranteed for three years, until 2018. Future of the Fellowship is unclear.  
*Action: Ongoing discussion among Trustees.*
  - ii) Process for appointments to roles in NCS.** Discussion of how to encourage members to become involved with NCS and gain leadership experience that would qualify them to be potential Trustees within NCS, including organizing congress sessions, organizing congress threads, joining the program committee, reviewing for SAC, presenting at the graduate workshop, serving on the finance committee. Agreed that a certain level of transparency in the process must be maintained.  
*Action: Agreed not to change constitution; RE will write up a piece for the newsletter on ways to become more involved with NCS.*
- 4. Finance Committee Report (ArBu)**
  - i) ED should not be an ex officio member of the finance committee.** Agreed to propose this change to members.
  - ii) Recommendations on investments.** Discussion of balance between stocks and bonds in the endowment, which are currently 50/50. Discussion of sources of income revenue. Noted that SAC now belongs to the Premium Collection on Project MUSE and therefore fewer universities have online access to the content. ProjectMUSE will have all back issues of the journal up by 2018, so revenues may rise in the future.  
*Action: RE to follow up with ProjectMUSE regarding the new tiered system and will try to increase accessibility of SAC at all academic institutions.*
- 5. London Congress 2016: local congress planning (AnBa)**  
Noted problems with the logistics of QMUL's centralized handling of congress money. ArBu & RE thanked AnBa, Lawrence Warner, and the local planning committee for all their work.
- 6. Executive Director's Report (RE)**
  - i) The society is in a good state financially.
  - ii) Membership numbers are good. Teacher memberships have gone up significantly. Discussion of ways to increase membership numbers, especially to regions outside North America and the UK. There may also be ways to involve other disciplines in the society more, such as historians, art historians, etc.

## COFFEE BREAK 11:45-12:00

### 7. Program Committee Report (ES and KR)

There are over 100 panels and 500 participants at the London congress, slightly higher than in Iceland. Some of the congress threads take advantage of location. KR and ES sought to make the panels as inclusive as possible. Some things that worked well: allowing membership to build panels from ground up, suggestions from membership re threads; the high school teacher outreach, and the poster session. KR and ES proposed a change to the current policy whereby anyone can submit two abstracts, namely that members can submit only ONE abstract, with sessions created for papers not accepted into predetermined sessions. KR and ES also recommended fewer threads, which would also make room for the placement of more submissions. The Trustees will continue to select a chair of the Program Committee, who can then select their own co-chair. Round of applause for work of Program Committee.

### 8. 2018 Congress

- i) **Biennial Lecturer.** Maura Nolan was selected as the Biennial Lecturer for 2018.

## 12:50 – 1:50 BREAK FOR LUNCH

### 9. SAC Report (SSal)

Submission and acceptance rates have remained about the same over the past two years. Discussion about number of book reviews and the process for getting reviews. Agreed that one way of involving younger NCS members is that they could volunteer themselves to be added to a list of potential reviewers. Discussion of the criteria for a proposed Early Career Essay Prize. Agreed that NCS would offer a \$2,000 prize every two years. Noted that if SSal and Shayne Legassie decide not to stay on past the 5-year term, the next editor and book review editor for SAC should be picked by mid-2018. Agreed that it would be helpful to know soon if they would stay on. RE raised question about putting SAC on JSTOR and EBSCO, as well as ProjectMUSE. There are conflicting reports on whether it is advantageous to have a journal on multiple platforms. ProjectMUSE is committed to getting back issues up by 2018. RE thanked SSal on behalf of the Trustees for all her work.

### 10. Report on the Chaucer Bibliography (SA)

Mark Allen is still doing on the online bibliography, which is hosted by UTSA, where it will remain for now, although eventually it will be moved to another site. There were 17228 hits on the website for 2015, but already up to 11673 in March of 2016; SA is unsure why the numbers change as they do; they may correspond to fluctuations in ProjectMUSE downloads. Agreed we would put a note on the Bibliography on the front page to let people know that they can find SAC articles online. Mark Allen's goal is to have the bibliography go back to 1966. Congratulations to Mark Allen and SA, and to David Matthews and Anke Bernau (of Manchester UP Medieval Literature and Culture series) on the publication of the [\*Annotated Chaucer Bibliography: 1997-2010\*](#), ed. Mark Allen and Stephanie Amsel. SA answered questions from the Trustees about the process of seeking contributors and getting in reviews. The process is going well, but SA would like more contributors. Agreed to send out a call. The Trustees thanked SA for her work.

### 11. Report on Teacher Outreach (SF and LS)

This initiative was first established at the 2014 NCS congress in order to better integrate teachers into the NCS congresses and to act as a forum for teachers. The teachers' session running today is only the beginning. The group hopes to create better links between universities and teachers, and better networks, and might also open up teaching opportunities in high schools for NCS members. Communication was discussed: need to establish a website; an official group within NCS to offer credit for professional development; and allow older teachers to mentor younger teachers, to increase likelihood that Chaucer will be taught in high schools. Susanna Fein and David Raybin to serve as links to the teaching community, with Kara Crawford and John Longo representing the teachers. Agreed that NCS could sponsor or coordinate sessions at NCTE (the US National

Council of Teachers of English) and at NATE (the UK National Association for the Teaching of English). Agreed the NEH connection must be maintained. With Lynn Staley leaving as Trustee, Candace Barrington volunteered to serve as the new liaison between the Trustees and the teachers.

**3:30 – 3:45 TEA BREAK**

**8ii). 2018 Program Chair**

Nominations from members for the Program Committee chair were discussed, and narrowed down to six names. Bobby Meyer-Lee was voted Program Committee Chair. Members of the Program Committee will be selected by a subsequent online vote from names suggested by Trustees and members. Importance of diversity stressed. Discussion of Graduate Workshop leader and a Toronto-based sub-committee for it, and of potential for Canadian funding for the Workshop. It was suggested that teaching materials from the Workshop be made available online afterwards.

**8iii). Toronto bid for the 2018 Congress (AG)**

Discussion of bid. Will Robins and Alex Gillespie to be local co-chairs. As president of Victoria University, Will Robins has access to conference organizing team and facilities at discounted rates while AG has administrative staff available to her. Toronto is a hub of multiculturalism and diversity. It is home of the Centre for Medieval Studies, with many international students. There is a large medievalist faculty, including Susan Akbari, Matthew Sergi, Deanna Williams, and Kara Gaston. Dates: Tuesday-Saturday to fit with southern hemisphere semesters (July 9-15, 2018). Congress Dinner at Gibraltar Point (on the Toronto Islands), a ten minute boat ride away. Outdoor informal meal catered by Parts and Labour: dinner \$100 CAD?, with possibility of that cost going down. Registration costs: \$180 CAD? Cheaper accommodation should be restricted to lower income members. 3 conference hotels in Toronto, usually \$150 CAD/night.

Unanimous vote to accept the bid. We thanked AG.

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.**

JR 07/10/2016

Revised RE 09/13/2016