

BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY
2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday-Sunday, June 2-4, 2017
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

BRS 2017 ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES, draft v4
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, Friday, June 2, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER. The 2017 annual meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society board of directors was called to order by BRS board of directors chair Chad Trainer at 8:21 pm, June 2, 2017, in the Constitution Room of Memorial Hall, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT. Chad Trainer (Chair), Ken Blackwell, David Blitz, William Bruneau, Rosalind Carey, Landon Elkind, Kevin Klement, Tim Madigan, Kris Notaro, John Ongley, Michael Potter, Cara Rice, Thomas Riggins, Michael Stevenson, Thom Weidlich

OTHER BRS MEMBERS PRESENT. Howard Blair, Michael Friedman, David Henehan

II. REPORTS

1. APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT. BRS president Tim Madigan moved to approve the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES. Kevin Klement moved to approve the BRS 2016 annual board of directors meeting minutes, which included as an addendum the July 2016 online board meeting minutes, at which the life membership fee was raised from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 for individuals and \$1,750.00 for couples as of January 1, 2017, and John Galtung was elected an honorary member of the Society. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

3. WEB PRESENCE. There was a discussion, initiated by Kris Notaro, VP of Web Technologies, about the need for more members who are WordPress-savvy and skilled at video design to develop website content that could help the BRS attract new members. Some discussion centered on the desirability of getting students involved in such creation. There was general agreement that new administrative positions need not be created to move these projects forward.

As Jolen Galaugher was interested in spear-heading outreach projects, it was agreed that it would be advisable to get her involved in content creation for the website as well, if she is interested.

David Blitz has twelve students at Central Connecticut State university who are forming a local chapter of the Bertrand Russell Society, eight of whom will be at the

university next year. He suggested that some or all of them might wish to be involved in this project.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. The following BRS members were elected as executive officers of the BRS for the coming year:

Chair of the Board: Chad Trainer

President: Tim Madigan

Treasurer: Landon Elkind

Secretary: John Ongley

Vice President: Michael Potter

b. The following BRS members were re-elected as officers of the BRS for the coming year:

Vice-Chair of the Board: Ray Perkins

Vice President, Website Technologies: Kris Notaro

Vice President, Electronic Projects: Dennis Darland

2. THE 2018, 2019, AND 2020 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 2018 Bertrand Russell Society Annual Meeting will be June 22-24, 2018 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. This was decided at the 2016 Board of Directors meeting. Ken Blackwell informed the board that McMaster University appears to be committing considerable resources to the meeting.

Michael Potter volunteered to host the 2020 Annual Meeting at the University of Windsor, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Kevin Klement said he would investigate the possibility of hosting the 2019 meeting at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Landon Elkind noted that 2019 will be the centenary of Russell's *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*.

3. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Bruneau reported on the *BRS Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* will now be entirely online, which will save the BRS around \$1,300 USD per year, which may be enough to lead to financial stability. He added that he would like every member of the board to contribute as authors to the *Bulletin*. Blackwell asked whether the *Bulletin* will be released simultaneously to both members and the public, or to members first. Bruneau said there will be no formal delay to the public release, but as a side effect of the process, members will receive it first through the listserv. Bruneau sees the purposes of the *Bulletin* as outreach, promotion of Russell, and promotion of the BRS – whereas he sees the journal as a privilege of membership.

4. REPORTING BYLAW CHANGES

Blackwell would like to find a way to reflect bylaw changes on the BRS website in a more timely fashion. He asserted that currently, the website can not be updated with bylaw changes until the relevant meetings are approved the following year, and he proposed holding an online meeting shortly after the annual meeting to approve bylaw changes.

David Henehan, BRS member, attorney, and former BRS secretary, asserted that bylaw changes go into effect the minute they pass, and are not conditional on approval of the minutes, which are just a record of the meeting at which the bylaw change occurred. John Ongley mentioned that he would be able to get the correct text online soon after the meetings occur.

There was a lively discussion about how to ensure minutes are posted in a timely fashion as well, which led to a discussion regarding who has the official copy of the bylaws. There seem to be several electronic copies of the bylaws; Ongley informed the board that he keeps an up-to-date copy of the bylaws on his BRS website.

Blackwell also raised the question of whether there should be a notice of motion period for proposed bylaw changes, as they are serious matters. He suggested a one-month period of notice. This led to a lively discussion. Ongley and Blackwell confirmed that meetings require a two-month period of notice, but Tom Riggins noted that it would be sensible to have a month to think about proposed bylaw changes after a meeting has been called, which works in favor of a one-month period of notice for bylaw changes.

Bruneau said he would like the executive to collect a clear and up-to-date version of the bylaws for publication in the spring Bulletin.

5. THE BRS LIBRARY Blitz informed the board that Ray Perkins has brought all of the Russell material of the late Tom Stanley (former BRS Librarian) to CCSU, which Blitz would like to combine with his own collection to create a Tom Stanley Memorial Library. He will report back to the board once he receives word from the CCSU administration about whether this is possible. Dennis Darland has also completed moving Stanley's audio and visual collection, which is available to members online on a password-protected page at bertrandrussell.org.

IV. ADJOURNMENT. David Blitz moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Michael Potter
Acting Secretary
Bertrand Russell Society
June 11, 2017

ADDENDUM

BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE REPORT: At the annual meeting banquet on Saturday evening, June 3, 2017, Ray Perkins, Jr., chair of the Bertrand Russell Society Book Award committee, announced the 2017 winners of the BRS Book Award. They are Tim Madigan and Peter Stone, editors, for their collection *Bertrand Russell: Public Intellectual*. Perkins said the book was a “much needed, interesting and well-crafted collection of papers – many by BRS members, including Tim, Peter and Chad Trainer – on many aspects of Russell’s public interests.”

BERTRAND RUSSELL SOCIETY
2017 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT,v5)

Sunday, June 4, 2017
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

I. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Timothy Madigan, BRS President and meeting chair, at 11:53, June 4, 2017, in the Connecticut Room of Memorial Hall, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT. A Jackhammer is loudly pounding away outside the meeting room window.

BRS MEMBERS PRESENT Timothy Madigan (BRS President and meeting chair), Kenneth Blackwell, Howard Blair, David Blitz, William Bruneau, Rosalind Carey, Giovanni de Carvalho, Landon Elkind, Peter Forcan, Peter Friedman, David Henehan, Kevin Klement, John Lenz, Lianghua Zhou, John Ongley, Raymond Perkins, Jr., Alan Schwerin, Michael Stevenson, Laurie Endicott Thomas, Thom Weidlich

II. REPORTS

MINUTES APPROVED Minutes of the 2016 Members Meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society were approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Ray Perkins, Jr. introduced two resolutions and, in a separate motion for each, moved that the Society adopt them. The motions were seconded.

a. The resolutions are:

RESOLUTION 1. RESTRICTION ON NUCLEAR FIRST USE

We, the members of the Bertrand Russell Society,

Cognizant of the unparalleled catastrophe that the use of nuclear weapons would cause,
Mindful of President Trump's general impetuosity and unpredictable behavior,
Aware that a U.S. president currently has the power and legal authority to initiate the use of nuclear weapons,

Urge that all Americans support the Markey-Lieu Bill S. 200 and H.R. 669 that are now before the foreign relations committees of the U.S. Senate and House. This Bill denies U.S. first use of nuclear weapons absent a Congressional declaration of war.

RESOLUTION 2. BRS REBUKE OF TRUMP'S WITHDRAWAL FROM PARIS AGREEMENT

The Bertrand Russell Society is alarmed and outraged at President Trump's withdrawal of the United States, a major CO₂ world polluter, from the Paris Climate Agreement. His withdrawal is an ignorant and reckless action which will not only diminish U.S.

international leadership and respect, but also risk infecting other major polluters with the same selfish nationalism that could end the global cooperation needed to stem the rising climate calamity.

We urge the Trump administration to reconsider its irresponsible action. And, in the meantime, we urge all concerned citizens to support state and local efforts to reduce our collective carbon footprint.

b. The motions were approved and the resolutions adopted by the Society, the first with one abstention, the second unanimously.

2. BRS President Tim Madigan reminded the Society that the 2018 BRS Annual Meeting will be held June 22-24 at McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and the 2020 Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Windsor, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The meeting place for the 2019 Annual Meeting remains undetermined.

IV. ADJOURNMENT John Lenz moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

John Ongley
BRS Secretary
June 8, 2017

COMMITTEE REPORT: At the annual meeting banquet on Saturday evening, Jun 3, 2017, Ray Perkins, Jr., chair of the Bertrand Russell Society Book Award committee, announced the 2017 winners of the BRS Book Award. They are Tim Madigan and Peter Stone, editors, for their collection *Bertrand Russell: Public Intellectual*. Perkins said the book was a “much needed, interesting and well-crafted collection of papers (many by BRS members, including Tim, Peter and Chad Trainer) on many aspects of Russell’s public interests.”