

Students of Philosophy Association

20 January 2023

### January Meeting Minutes

Date: 19 January 2023

Location: S-Annex S-05

Time: 5:40pm

Attendance: Gabriel Bidner (Chair and Executive Coordinator), Andrew Wilcox (Outreach and Communications), Lauren Fitzgerald (Finance), Jennifer Francis (Internal & Faculty Liaison)

- Meeting called to order at 5:50pm
- The first Winter term social event was discussed:
  - February 2nd, 7pm onwards
  - N Bar
  - 70 drink tickets
  - Gabriel will correspond with N bar, booking and tickets
  - Andrew will make the payment if ASFA cannot do so in time
  - Andrew mentions that there's another event happening all day on Feb 3rd (Concordia philosophy symposium) and that having the event the day before may be too much events for one week for students with a lack of time (they may choose one or the other)
  - Lauren rebuts that it shouldn't be a problem and that there's enough time between both events.
- Changes to bylaws:
  - Andrew created a [document](#) explicitly listing every suggested change from John Hutton.
  - We will discuss this in its own executive meeting
  - This will happen soon at the next executive meeting (within the next few weeks)
  - We will go line-by-line to discuss which changes we want to make

- Two options: we can hold a special assembly to make the changes on the spot, or we can ask them as referendum questions to students
  - Consensus was that asking as referendum questions is probably the best option
- For formatting changes, we don't need to have a vote, but for working changes, yes.
- We still need to appoint Diana as Interim SoPhiA Review Editor-in-Chief
- Discussion about using SoPhiA funds for boosting Discord server
  - Lauren fine with using rest of subscription fund to fund two months of the server
  - Andrew asks for at least four months of funding (rest of Winter term), we need another 20\$ from somewhere
  - Andrew proposes to dip into the Merchandise budget
- Discussion of merchandise budget:
  - Andrew, when he created the budget, proposed this budget for either student merch like mugs, stickers, bottles, etc.. or for a shirt order.
  - Soline had previously mentioned that if we do merch, we should be cognizant it doesn't fund slave labour or sweatshops and is sustainable.
  - We have about 20 shirts at the moment, and so we don't really need to order shirts.
  - If we want to give SoPhiA-branded merch to students, then we can ask students what sorts of things they would like us to order, so we don't waste money on things students don't use.
  - Is there somewhere else we can put the merch budget to use?
    - Discussion about offering a small student bursary to phil students.
    - Discussion about offering some of it to fund the new department award in the process of being created.
      - Most of us were against this idea. The department shouldn't rely on SoPhiA for funding.
  - We will discuss this further in next meeting
- Discussion about Sexual awareness workshop:

- We need to find out what we need to arrange and reach out to the appropriate parties.
- Discussion about new department award being created:
  - Jennifer in the last faculty meeting suggested that the award be for best essay and that it have a specific topic
  - Some faculty were against the idea of “best essay” since it would be more work for them.
    - They’d need to devise how “best” is determined
    - They need to review essay submissions, which takes time.
  - We discussed in our meeting that we could have a topic which is relative to the term, depending on which courses are being offered. E.g., if there’s a 3–level kant, a 400-level kant, and intro ethics (which usually involves Kant) we could have a topic about Kant; or if there’s a lot of ethics courses being offered that term, then we have a topic related to ethics.
- Discussion of us as a nonprofit organization.
  - John Hutton, ASFA’s GM, sent an email about our status as a registered nonprofit.
  - Formerly, we were a registered nonprofit with Regie des Entreprises de Québec.
  - Andrew states that we received mail from them that we were deregistered because nobody kept our file up to date with the Regie and we have not filed taxes for at least 3-4 years.
  - The email from John states that we should update our file with the Regie.
  - It costs money to re-register (114\$ + 57\$ fee to file for each year we were late).
  - One of our executives needs to do this update with the Regie. John Hutton can help us with the process.
  - We discussed that in order to prevent this occurring in future years, we should have something in our bylaws about staying up to date. One executive should be responsible for this task.
  - There was discussion on if it’s worth being a nonprofit or not. What benefits do we get?
    - Registering again is optional.
    - Becoming accredited also affords us a few luxuries:

- 1. Concordia by law needs to give us office space
  - 2. Concordia by law needs to provide a list of emails of all philosophy students
  - (there's a difference between registered and accredited)
  - We discussed that since we already have an office and we can get emails from ASFA, then accreditation isn't really beneficial.
  - We can still be registered, though.
- Meeting ended at 7pm

-