

Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse
Minutes of the Membership Meeting
6/27/03 Madrid, Spain

Officers Present

Chair: Susan Goldman; Treasurer: Max Louwarse; Secretary: Joe Magliano

Members present: 45.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:45 PM

1. Information and Action

A. Approval of Minutes of Twelfth Annual Membership Meeting

a. Unanimous with corrections of typos.

B. Amendments to Bylaws

a. Elections' relevant articles. The following three articles were approved unanimously by those present and are to replace the current articles in the bylaws.

Article V:

1. WHEN A VACANCY OF THE GOVERNING BOARD ARISES, THE SECRETARY-TREASURER *OR SECRETARY* SHALL CANVAS THE MEMBERSHIP BY POSTAL OR ELECTRONIC MAIL FOR NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS TO FILL THE VACANCY(IES) ON THE GOVERNING BOARD.

2. THE CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION WILL BE SELECTED BY CHOOSING THOSE WITH THE MOST NOMINATIONS, WHO ARE WILLING TO SERVE, UP TO A TOTAL OF THREE TIMES THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES. THE GOVERNING BOARD MAY AT ITS DISCRETION *ADD UP TO* ONE PERSON FOR EACH VACANCY *TO THOSE NOMINATED BY THE MEMBERSHIP*. THE NAMES SHALL BE PLACED ON AN ELECTION BALLOT WHICH SHALL BE MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS. THE HARE VOTING SYSTEM WILL BE USED WITH EACH MEMBER RANK ORDERING THE CANDIDATES.

3. SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE MAILING OF THE ELECTION BALLOT, THE ELECTION SHALL BE CLOSED, AND THE BALLOTS COUNTED. THE CANDIDATES RECEIVING THE HIGHEST RANKS SHALL BE ELECTED TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE GOVERNING BOARD. IN CASE OF TIES, THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL CAST THE DECIDING BALLOT.

b. Mission statement: Unanimously accepted. Now to read:

Article 1, section 2:

2. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SOCIETY IS TO I) PROMOTE THE COMMUNICATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN DISCOURSE PROCESSING AND TEXT ANALYSIS, AND II) CONTRIBUTE TO THE EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE IN THE FIELD OR ENTERING THE FIELD.

c. Secretary/Treasurer to reflect division of responsibilities. All passed unanimously. Now to read:

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

1. ANYONE MAY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY IF SHE OR HE SHOWS AN INTEREST IN THE STUDY OF TEXT AND DISCOURSE. INTERESTED PERSONS

MAY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP BY WRITING TO THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OR TREASURER AND BY PAYING THE ANNUAL DUES.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

1. THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OR A SECRETARY AND A TREASURER.

2. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER, *OR* SECRETARY AND TREASURER, SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD TO SERVE A TERM OF THREE YEARS. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER, *OR* SECRETARY AND TREASURER, MAY BE RE-ELECTED ONCE, BUT MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN SIX CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

3. THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OR SECRETARY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING A LIST OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY AND FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEMBERSHIP. THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OR TREASURER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLLECTION OF DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS, AND FOR DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD. THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OR TREASURER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND SUBSEQUENTLY AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS,

Article IX: Recall

1. UPON PETITION OF 10% OF THE MEMBERSHIP, AN ELECTION BY MAIL BALLOT WILL BE HELD ON PROPOSALS WITH RESPECT TO THE RECALL OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER *OR OF THE SECRETARY OR TREASURER*. SUCH RECALL WILL BE EFFECTIVE UPON A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WITH A SIXTY-DAY LIMIT AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE V. THE RECALLED BOARD MEMBERS SHALL BE REPLACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ELECTION PROCEDURE PRESCRIBED IN ARTICLE V.

2. Information Items

A. Treasurer Report

a. Society News

- The Society has a new domain name (www.societyfortextanddiscourse.org)
- The Society's website has moved to a new server
- There have been substantial refinements made to the online memberships renewal and conference registration and the site is substantially more user friendly
- With the use of VeriSign, online payment is as secure as possible

b. Membership Status

There are currently 186 paying members.

- There are 65 North American Members (US and Canada)
- There are 50 members outside the United States and Canada. There are 32 student members (19 from US/Canada and 13 from Europe)

- There are 39 special members (Discourse Processes Editorial Board/Spouse)

c. Disciplines represented by the memberships

The discipline of the members was inferred from the departments for which the members are associated. By far, Psychology dominates the current membership. Other disciplines represented in the membership are linguistics, education, cognitive science, and computer science

d. Participants for the Thirteenth Annual conference

There were 104 participants. Ninety participants pre-registered and 14 registered onsite.

B. Committee Formation – The Governing Board voted unanimously to form a number of working committees for purposes of addressing the needs of the Society. The Chair of the Governing Board is a member of each committee and will coordinate the work of all of them. In addition, the Chair of the Governing Board, in consultation with Board members, is responsible for drafting the charge to each committee and periodically reviewing and updating same. Committees are chaired by at least one member of the Governing Board. Members of the Society are asked to volunteer to serve on one or more committees and to email the chair of that committee about interest in serving.

a. **Annual Meeting Committee** – Rolf Zwaan, Chair

(zwaan@darwin.psy.fsu.edu); Danielle McNamara, Isabel Tapiero.

The purpose of this committee is to plan future meeting sights and determine other societies with which to coordinate the annual meeting.

b. **Membership** – Manuel de Vega, Chair (Mdevega@ULL.ES); Art Glenberg

The purpose of this committee is to discuss and implement strategies to increase both the diversity and size of the Society. The Society needs to be at least twice its current size to be financially viable and have stable membership and conference participation bases.

c. **Finance** – Max Louwerse, Chair (mlouwers@memphis.edu); Murray Singer

The purpose of this committee is to determine investment strategies to increase the Society's financial viability and independence.

d. **Newsletter** – Joe Magliano, Chair (jmagliano@niu.edu); Rosalind Horowitz

The purpose of this committee is to determine and implement strategies to improve the Society's newsletter so that it better serves the membership.

C. Conferences

a. Thanks to Jose Antonio Leon and local organizing committee for a job exceptionally well done.

b. 2004: Jennifer Wiley, program chair; Susan Goldman – Co-chair. Arrangements. Negotiating hotel and rates. The meeting will likely take place in Chicago and in early August, before the Cognitive

Science Conference. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer of proposals or as a member of the Program Committee, please contact Jennifer Wiley (jwiley@uic.edu).

D. Board Transitions

- a. Thanks to Herre van Oostendorp and Rosalind Horowitz for 13 years of dedicated service to building the organization.
- b. Elections are ongoing for replacements for these two governing board positions. Voting to close August 1st.

3. There being no further items for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

July 30, 2003 UPDATE:

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse will take place August 1 – 4, 2004 at the Westin River North Hotel in Chicago, IL, US. This meeting will directly precede the meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in the same hotel. Additional details will be forthcoming and posted to the Society's webpage. Note: Exact dates/times for beginning and ending sessions of the meeting have not yet been determined. (Probable begin time: Early evening on August 1. Probable end time: Early evening of August 3rd. Whether we meet on August 4th for half a day will depend on the number of papers accepted for presentation.