Public Philosophy Network Business (Membership) Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 15, 2013, 5-6:30 pm

Emory Conference Center

(click on links to see relevant background documents or web pages)

1. Conference Announcements were made about upcoming sessions and receptions.
2. Review and Discussion of PPN Administration. Sharon Meagher briefly outlined the structure of the Public Philosophy Network as we move to a full-fledged membership association. There is an Advisory Board whose members represent PPN Institutional members; each institutional members selects one member to sit on the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board in turn elects co-chairs of the Board who also then sit on the PPN Executive Committee. The Co-Directors are elected by the general membership and have ex officio seats on the Advisory Board. They chair the Executive Committee, which also includes the election of three members, one of whom must be an independent scholar-activist or community-based practitioner.
3. Election of Co-Directors (click to see their biographies) : Noëlle McAfee was elected to a three year term and Sharon Meagher was elected to an 18 month term.
4. Election of Executive Committee (click to see their biographies): Adam Briggle, Kyle Whyte, and Frank McMillan were elected to the elected positions of the EC.
5. Committee Reports
   a. Conference Committee: Noëlle McAfee, PPN Co-Director and Chair of the Conference Committee, thanked the members of the conference committee: Adam Briggle, Bob Kirkman, Andrew Light, Sarah Clark Miller, Ron Sundstrom, and Kyle Whyte. She also thanked the Emory Graduate Students who assisted with the conference.
   McAfee noted that the conference budget was nearly $50,000 and that registration fees were subsidized by funding from Emory University (they provided almost $30,000) and our institutional members. The next conference is tentatively planned for October 2014 and hosted by the University of San Francisco [note: date has since been changed to Summer 2015].
   b. Web Committee: Sharon Meagher, PPN Co-Director and Chair of the PPN web committee, thanked web committee members George Aulisio and Cori Wong, congratulating Cori on the anticipated completion of the doctorate at Penn State in summer 2013, and noting that they would need to replace Cori. She asked for volunteers and those who might be able to obtain support from their home institutions to apply for the positions of web master and virtual community manager. Web hosting costs are relatively inexpensive—about $600 annually, but do not include labor costs needed to support the site.
6. Review and Discussion of Institutional Membership Policy.
7. Proposing PPN Satellite Sessions at Other Conferences. We encourage PPN members to organize sessions relevant to public philosophy at other professional conferences and meetings. Upcoming sessions include a workshop on feminist philosophy as public philosophy at FEAST

meeting. Members interested in obtaining official PPN endorsement may submit a proposal by using the form on the PPN website.

8. Hosting a PPN Workshop at Your Institution/Organization. We encourage PPN members to host workshops on some aspect of publicly engaged philosophy at your home institutions or in your communities. Those who seek official recognition from the Public Philosophy Network and/or who wish logistically and PR support from the PPN should submit their proposals using the form on the PPN website. If an institution hosts a PPN workshop and bears the financial costs, that would count towards fulfillment of PPN institutional dues. Contact Sharon Meagher or Noelle McAfee via the public philosophy gmail address: publicpn AT gmail.com for additional information.

9. Affinity Groups :Sharon Meagher encouraged members to continue their work on-line by joining or organizing affinity groups, that is, groups formed around particular public philosophy issues of shared concern.

10. Kettering Report : Sharon Meagher announced the release of the preliminary report drafted for the Kettering Foundation as we research how to encourage and support publicly engaged philosophy. She invited all PPN members to share promising practices that affirm, expand, or challenge the theses and practical directives in the draft report.

11. Member Announcements:

- Eric Thomas Weber announced the American Philosophical Association's Committee on Public Philosophy's competition for the best op-eds published by a philosopher in 2012. Kyle Whyte is chair of the competition subcommittee. Winners receive $100 and institutional recognition. It is anticipated that this competition will be an annual event.

- Eric also announced that the APA Committee on Public Philosophy plans an annual book signing event at the Eastern APA meeting that will feature public philosophy books. They strongly encourage PPN members to make nominations and hope to include greater representation from the membership (last year's book signing featured only men).

- Kathryn Russell noted that several members of the American Philosophical Practitioners were in attendance at the conference. They seek book reviewers for their journal. Nancy Matchett is the book editor; please contact her at: nancy.matchett@appa.edu if you would like to serve as a reviewer.

- Michael Menser announced the Philosophy in the City Conference to be held at Brooklyn College, December 6-7, 2013. The deadline for calls for participation is August 18, 2013. For additional information, go to the conference website.

- Danielle LaSusa announced a new philosophy salon series in Manhattan, New York.

- David Brooke Struck announced the Philopolis project, which takes place annually in Montreal and Guelph, Canada. The deadline for the call for activities for the Guelph event (October 4-6, 2013) is September 1, 2013. Submission and event information can be found on the website. The Philopolis organizers are also interested in developing events with partners in other cities; contact David through the PPN network.

12. New business?

    a. Motion was proposed by Christopher Long and Mark Fisher (Penn State) in support of their new journal. The motion was approved by unanimously. It is is as follows:
Whereas the Public Philosophy Network is committed to advancing the practice of publicly-engaged philosophy;
Whereas the current climate of academic publishing in philosophy remains limited and closed in ways that are not conducive to collaborative public scholarship;
Whereas the future relevance and livelihood of the discipline of philosophy will be determined in large part by how effectively its practitioners leverage digital media communication for scholarly purposes;
Whereas the Public Philosophy Journal will leverage the open and collaborative capacities endemic to digital communications to cultivate a community of scholars engaged in curating, reviewing, editing, cowriting, and modeling rigorous work related to public philosophy broadly construed;
Whereas the Public Philosophy Journal will be an online, open, peer reviewed journal that performs philosophy in public as its mode of publication;
Whereas the Public Philosophy Journal is committed to creating a structure of credentialing and reviewing that will be widely recognized as meeting standards for tenure, promotion, and professional advancement in both academic and nonacademic institutions;
As members of the Public Philosophy Network,
We hereby recognize the need for a journal, such as the Public Philosophy Journal, to embody the values of publicly engaged scholarship in a digital world;
We hereby express support for the creation of the Public Philosophy Journal.

    b. Members in attendance thanked Sharon Meagher and Noëlle McAfee for their work in moving the PPN from a smaller group's ideas to a functioning organization.

13. Meeting adjourned.

Notes submitted by Roberto Toledo and Frank McMillan; compiled by Sharon Meagher