Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Canadian Society for Digital Humanities / Société canadienne des humanités numériques, University of Calgary

6 June 2016

Recorded by: Michael Ullyot, Treasurer

Chairs: Dominic Forest and Constance Crompton (on behalf of Susan Brown)

Members present: Jon Bath, Jessica Bay, Jayson Boyd, Jennifer Cook, Rebecca Dowson, Nandita Dutta, Brian Greenspan, Alison Headley, Diane Jakacki, Antonio Jimenez-Mavillard, Emily Murphy, Dan O'Donnell, Julia Polyck-O'Neill, Tunde Opeibi, Jenna Townend, Geoffrey Rockwell, Lynne Siemens, Ray Siemens, Stéfan Sinclair, Adriana Soto-Corominas, Juan-Luis Suárez, Harvey Quamen, Javier de la Rosa, Marcello Vitali-Rosatti, Caroline Winter, Ian Lancashire

1. Matthew Lucas and Jeremy Geelen of SSHRC gave a presentation on Data Management Plans
   a. Lucas thanked the DH community for our future advocacy of these plans, and other leadership roles we might play
   b. Geelen presented a slideshow based on the Tri-Council Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management
      i. He described the feedback period that had past, and the need for standards across disciplines
      ii. He added that different standards would jeopardize data sharing. SSHRC recognizes the diverse ways that disciplines and institutions treat research data. Geelen made the analogy between research ethics and research data, and suggested that data management plans might be similarly administered by institutions.
      iii. The Tri-Council will publish its statement, and is convening focus groups of researchers in the 2016-17 academic year (Insight Grant and Partnership Grant recipients) to refine policies and write implementation timelines. These grant recipients will use the Portage Data Management Portal to draft their plans.
      iv. Data Management is probably going to be a requirement for future grants, overseen either by institutions or by granting agencies. It is not certain what that will mean for the adjudication process.
   c. Lucas stressed that SSHRC is in listening mode and wants to work with the community. The current discussion concerns only the management of our data; it is not yet about sharing of that data. Luca concluded that the council is not trying to increase the administrative burden on researchers.
   d. Questions from the floor:
      i. An unidentified speaker asked whether Digging into Data applications would be subject to DMP requirements? Lucas answered that they probably would.

      ii.   Ray Siemens suggested it would be valuable to raise awareness about this issue, but noted that administrators on campuses who advise research faculty are saying that the policy is unclear. Lucas answered that SSHRC wants to help those administrators and would offer workshops for grant holders.

     iii.   Ian Lancashire noted that grants often last no longer than 5 years, but data management is eternal: so will researchers need to finance it forever? Lucas said that the funds necessary for long-term storage would exceed a grantee's capacity, so institutions will need to provide this service.

2. Dan O'Donnell reported on Digital Studies / Le champ numérique (DS/CN)
   a. There are a lot of changes coming to the journal, which is now in the 2nd year of its SSHRC grant. It has increased its production without diluting its quality and has published more special issues.
   b. Currently there are 43 accepted submissions, of which perhaps 20-21 have been published, and about 6 are on the cusp of approval/release.
   c. The Lethbridge Journal Incubator, which runs the system, returned a profit of $3,000 in last year.
   d. The journal is now being evaluated by Open Library of the Humanities (OLH) for inclusion, which would bring many advantages, including things that were promised in the SSHRC grant:
      i. Every article would get a DOI.
      ii. Their contents would receive professional indexing.
      iii. It would become part of a megajournal.
   e. But there would be new conditions:
      i. The journal will be limited to publishing 30 articles/year, which is less than we publish now (there will be approx. 38 by the end of the present year). This will mean a change of philosophy, as DS/CN will publish fewer special issues, but some new ideas are emerging to set up a data imprint for datasets.
      ii. There will be more controls on special issues (though there will always be Congress proceedings).
   f. Geoffrey Rockwell asked whether the journal has a DMP. O'Donnell replied that two articles will be subject to updated protocols, and the editors recently discovered a system to move that along.
   g. O'Donnell added that DS/CN is doing better at French-language publication: up to a third of the articles next year will be in French, and there are more international articles in the pipeline.
   h. He thanked the journal's editorial board.

3. Michael Ullyot presented the Treasurer's Report. (See "2016-06-01 AGM Report on 2015.")
   a. Dan O'Donnell noted that student support is in part funded by DS/CN.

b. Ray Siemens asked, What are the society's sources of revenue? Ullyot answered that our funds come from the conference, from the Federation, from the journal, and from an ADHO subvention.

4. Constitution Changes (Susan Brown)
Presented for information some housekeeping changes to the society's constitution (attached as appendix).

5. Executive board elections (Constance Crompton)
    a. Connie announced new members of the CSDH/SCHN Executive, including herself as new VP English; Kim Martin as Member at Large; and Catherine Nygren, as Graduate Student Representative.
    b. Dominic Forest thanked the outgoing executives: Stéfan Sinclair, Jessica Bay, and Michael Sinatra.
    c. Connie and Dominic thanked the Local Arrangements Coordinator and the Program Chair at Congress.

6. The Ian Lancashire Promise Award for 2016: Ian himself presented the award to Jenna Townend (PhD student in the Department of English and Drama at Loughborough University) for her paper "The Network of George Herbert's Imitators: A Quantitative Approach."

7. Draft Guidelines on Digital Scholarship in the Humanities (Geoffrey Rockwell)
    a. Rockwell moved acceptance of his Draft Guidelines (seconded by Dan O'Donnell).
    b. Rockwell explained how these guidelines grew out of his experience with tenure and promotion at his university as an aid for us assessment, suggesting we could take leadership in changing the culture of scholarship.
    c. Jason Boyd asked whether there would be a mechanism for editing and commenting on the guidelines in future. Rockwell said that changes would need to come from associations like the CSDH, ACH, and EADH and suggested a CommentPress mechanism for commentary in future.
    d. Stéfan Sinclair (ACH President) noted that the AGM in Krakow will take up the subject and wondered whether these statements should grow independently.
    e. Michael Ullyot asked what kinds of things will count as a curated dataset. Rockwell and O'Donnell answered that currently Genomics Canada does this sort of curating; in the future there may be a review for metadata for regularity, but formatting is key.
    f. Ullyot asked whether such data sets could be used for hiring decisions, as well as tenure and promotion. Rockwell said that job ads would need to be explicit, and the documents would have multiple audiences, including chairs, deans, and evaluation committees.
    g. Ray Siemens noted that with AHA, MLA, and others working on these guidelines, would we be linking with them? Rockwell said that he tried to connect these

guidelines to them, particularly for those who adjudicated both (for example) historians and digital humanists.
h. Siemens suggested a friendly amendment that the document refer not only to ADHO organizations, but also to "other professional organizations."
i. The motion was passed with 31 in favour and 1 abstention.

8. Inclusivity and Diversity Statement
a. Stéfan Sinclair noted that this was an important issue, citing the difficulty the international umbrella organization (ADHO) had with the issue this past year.
b. Constance Crompton noted that this was a draft statement, for discussion, to be voted on later this summer.
c. Dominic Forest noted that it would be translated into French soon.
d. Sinclair noted that with DH2017 in Montreal, and Diane Jakacki as chair of the Program Committee, we should think about what a community gathering should look like in Canada.

9. Motion to adjourn by Geoffrey Rockwell, seconded by Diane Jakacki

Article 2: The Executive Committee of the Society

1. The Executive Committee (the Executive) manages the affairs and business of the society and is comprised of the officers of Executive. These officers are: the President (English) and President (French), who make up the Presidency; the Vice-President; the Vice-President (Outreach); the Secretary; and the Treasurer. To carry out the business of the society, the Executive may establish standing committees and, with consensus, appoint further delegates and officers.

1.1 Terms and Conditions of Appointment: Members of the Executive serve three-year terms and are elected by society members by majority vote from among a slate of members-in-good-standing of the society proposed by the Renewal Committee at the society's Annual General Meeting (AGM). If any member of the Executive is unable to fulfil the terms and conditions of appointment, the Executive may elect that member's replacement. Conditions of appointment to the Executive include:
…

3. The Presidency is primarily responsible for strategic planning and overall policy issues for the society. Given the society's mandate to foster digital humanities research in Canada's two official languages and to champion interaction between Canada's anglophone and francophone research communities, the Presidency will be comprised of two Presidents: a President (English) and a President (French).

Article 2: The Executive Committee of the Society

1. The Executive Committee (the Executive) manages the affairs and business of the society and is comprised of the officers of Executive. These officers are: the President; the Vice-President (French); the Vice-President (English); the Secretary; the Treasurer; and the non-voting Past-President (if any). To carry out the business of the society, the Executive may establish standing committees and, with consensus, appoint further delegates and officers.

1.1 Terms and Conditions of Appointment: Members of the Executive serve three-year terms and are elected by society members by majority vote from among a slate of members-in-good-standing of the society proposed by the Renewal Committee at the society's Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Past-President serves ex-officio for a single year immediately following the elected term of office. If any member of the Executive is unable to fulfil the terms and conditions of appointment, the Executive may elect that member's replacement. Conditions of appointment to the Executive include:
…

3. The President is primarily responsible for strategic planning and overall policy issues for the society, and will advance the society's mandate to foster digital humanities research in Canada's two official languages and to champion interaction between Canada's anglophone and francophone research communities, supported by a Vice-President (English) and a Vice-President (French).

3.3. The ~~Presidency~~ will be responsible for external relations with professional associations in related fields, serving as the society's liaison member at Executive Council meetings of associations with which the society has a formal affiliation. The President ~~(English)~~ will serve as liaison to national and international associations ~~in which the working language is exclusively or predominately English. The President (French) will serve as liaison to national and international associations in which~~ the ~~working language is exclusively or predominately French~~.

3.5. In all the above, the ~~Presidents comprising the Presidency are~~ responsible ~~to each other and~~ to the Executive for coordinating agreement in the direction of internal operations and external relations, in accordance with the society's mandate.

4. The Vice-~~President is~~ primarily responsible for operational issues of the society. In that capacity, ~~he or she~~:

~~presides~~, under the ~~Presidency~~, at meetings held by the Executive Council.

~~presides~~, under the ~~Presidency~~, over the AGM of the society, and ensures that all orders and resolutions of the Executive and membership are carried into effect.

~~conducts~~, with the direction of the ~~Presidency~~, the general and active affairs of the society, overseeing its affairs and continuing operations.

~~formulates~~, with the ~~Presidency~~, policies and projects for presentation to the Executive and society membership to fulfill the society's obligations and purposes.

3.3. The President will be responsible for external relations with professional associations in related fields, serving as the society's liaison member at Executive Council meetings of associations with which the society has a formal affiliation. The President will serve as liaison to national and international associations, except where functioning in an official language makes preferable the delegation of the liaison role to a Vice-President.

3.5. In all the above, the President is responsible to the Executive for coordinating agreement in the direction of internal operations and external relations, in accordance with the society's mandate.

4. The Vice-Presidents are primarily responsible for operational issues of the society. In that capacity, they:

preside, under the President, at meetings held by the Executive Council.

preside, under the President, over the AGM of the society, and ensures that all orders and resolutions of the Executive and membership are carried into effect.

conduct, with the direction of the President, the general and active affairs of the society, overseeing its affairs and continuing operations.

formulate, with the President, policies and projects for presentation to the Executive and society membership to fulfill the society's obligations and purposes.

5. The Vice-President (Outreach) is responsible for assisting the Presidency and Vice-President in the performance of their duties. Specifically, the Vice-President (Outreach) works closely with the Vice President in the operational issues of the society, as noted above, and has a mandate for society outreach and integration, working in conjunction with priorities and direction set by the Presidency. In the absence of the Vice-President, the Vice-President (Outreach) will perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Vice-President.

** Please also note that the section on committees has been relocated from "Article 2: The Executive Committee of the Society" in the previous version to "Article 4: Committees" and has been condensed.

5. The Vice-Presidents are responsible for dividing, in consultation with the President, the above responsibilities and assisting the President in the performance of their duties. Specifically, it works well if one Vice President focuses on internal operations, while the other has a mandate for society outreach and integration, working in conjunction with priorities and direction set by the President. In the absence of one Vice-President, the other Vice-President will perform the duties and exercise the powers of the absent Vice-President.