

INDIANA PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION FALL 2008 MEETING

November 22, 2008

9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Program Speakers:

The Fall 2008 meeting took place at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne (IPFW) in the Classroom Medical Auditorium CM 159.

The Program, entitled, “Religion, Science, and Law” opened at 9:30am and proceeded as follow:

Morning Speakers:

- a. John Beaudoin (NIU): Science, Theistic Evidence, and the EC
Commentator: William Connolly (U Evansville)
- b. Robert Audi: Church-State Separation and Science Education: Can Evolutionary Biology Be Religiously Neutral?

Afternoon Speakers:

- a. John Houston (Purdue U): God Commanded What?
Commentator: Kevin Harrelson (Ball State U)
- b. Jacob Tuttle (Purdue U): No Miracles, and No Questions Begged?
Commentator: David McCarty (Indiana U, Bloomington)

Business Meeting Minutes:

Present:

Jonathan Evans, (President), Bernd Buldt (Secretary-Treasurer), Robert Audi, William Connolly, Eric Dalton, Tom Howald, David McCarty, Peter Murray, Kathy Squadrito

Call to Order:

President Jonathan Evans called the meeting to order at 1:45pm

Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Spring 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer’s Report:

Bernd Buldt distributed a copy of the report:

Starting Balance:	\$309.45
Cost of Fall 2008 Meeting (covered by IPFW):	0
Petty cash found in envelope	5.00
Current total available balance:	\$314.45

Action Item: An un-cashed check dated 4/16/05 in the amount of \$20 was found.

Motion: Can/should it still be cashed? It was unanimously decided to destroy it.

IPA Constitution

Bernd announced that the IPA Constitution (rev. 1991) is now available in electronic format.

Call for Dues:

It was noted that the change to raise dues from \$3/year to \$5/year was not recorded in the Spring minutes. It was also noted that the constitution must be amended to reflect the change. Action Item: Motion to amend the constitution to reflect that effective immediately, the IPA membership dues are \$5/year payable at the beginning

of each Fall meeting passed unanimously. Dues collected from the members present totaled \$40. The money, along with the found petty cash, was given to Tom to deposit. Bernd noted that there would be no charge to IPA for this meeting as the IPFW Philosophy Dept. would incur all expenses. Bernd also suggested that another option for dues payment such as pay-pal or pay via credit card be added. Action Item: The motion to include a "Pay Pal" link to the revised IPA webpage where members could pay dues and donate via e-mail was passed unanimously.

IPA Website

Bernd has taken over construction of the new website. When ready, Bernd will send a notification via the newly created IPA listserv. He will look through the box of documents obtained from Tom and add an Archive section which should help add value. It was noted that if the IPA can prove the usefulness of this website, it should increase participation. All current active members are encouraged to promote it once it becomes active and to suggest links to add (i.e. meeting announcements, high school/undergrad/grad related info, teacher resources, recruiting tools/ placement resources for positions such as adjunct, visiting/continuing lecturer, and FFTF). Bernd noted that with the new state mandate for dual programs (HS/College), it may also prove to be a good recruiting tool for Philosophy programs.

Spring 2009 Meeting

The floor was opened for discussion of the Spring 2009 meeting. Although the constitution mentions one meeting is held in Central Indiana, this was determined to be non-binding, particularly in light of the dwindling numbers of attendees. The members present agreed to try for a location which may attract more participants.

Bernd expressed concern about today's low turnout, citing that over 350 e-mails and flyers were sent advertising this Fall meeting. He was told that despite appearances, the number of attendees was up and they credit good location, topics and choice of keynote speaker.

It was decided that it was probably too soon to determine the "real" cause of low turnout; however, location is probably not the biggest issue. Continued discussion covered topics such as:

- People need to be introduced to the newly created IPA Listserv and be encouraged to use it.
- Include people from nearby states (i.e. IL, OH, KY) who may participate in IPA activities.
- Include IPA links on all members' webpages.
- Solicit ideas for more effective advertising.
- Possibly move the Fall meeting to October (better weather for traveling). It was noted that typically it is held the first Saturday in November, this year being late.
- Create a list of grad students and work to interest them in submitting papers and becoming more involved in IPA activities. Bernd noted that four papers submitted for today's meeting were from Purdue grad students.
- Possible locations: South Bend, Bethel, St. Mary's, Notre Dame (but not on football days), southern Indiana to include Kentucky participants.
- Possible hold a 2 day (Friday and Saturday) meeting. A Mid-week meeting is probably not feasible.
- Locate the meeting at a site with a grad school (i.e. IU, Franklin, Purdue, IUPUI, Butler).
- The Spring meeting is usually in April; however, careful consideration needs to be made so it doesn't conflict with already existing meetings/holidays: Central PA Feb., Pacific PA in Mar. 1st Sat UG Ethics Conf., 2nd Sat. Easter, 3rd Sat. IPFW's Early Analytic meeting. Probable meeting date is the last Saturday in April with the last Saturday in March as a back-up choice
- Eric volunteered to investigate hosting the Spring meeting at IUPUI but said he will need help with a sponsor.

Program Committee

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Bernd suggested there may be better participation if there were more community involvement. He suggested creating a Program Committee comprised of a small, distinguished group of members who could spread out and involve more specialties in IPA related activities. This could increase the level of professionalism and raise expectations and credibility. Specific activities could include acting as referees at grad paper competitions and serving as consultants, distinguished lecturers, and keynote speakers. Questions were raised about what model to follow (i.e., ad hoc, trustee, journal referee), and whether the members would be permanent or rotate through. Ideally the group will need to be able to respond to issues punctually yet remain flexible. Action Item: Motion to charge the executive committee, and any other members they may choose to “deputize”, with investigating the details of forming such a Program Committee passed unanimously.

Other Business

Bernd will discuss the new state mandate for high school based dual programs and the Indiana Core Library courses with other Philosophy chairs in the state and report back. He will also try to get them all to attend the upcoming Spring meeting.

Kathy asked if anyone knew of any current political activism occurring within the IPA. She said she’s recently been contacted on behalf of a grievant at Ivy Tech. She noted that this may be a good time to try and get a union formed.

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by Deborah Hoile.