

Minutes of the Board meeting of AILACT on May 17, 2001

The AILACT Board of Directors met at lunchtime, Thursday, May 17, 2001, in conjunction with the biennial meeting of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation in Windsor, Ontario. Physically attending the meeting were Tony Blair, Bob Ennis, Maurice Finnocchiaro, Ralph Johnson, Jerry Nosich, and Michael Scriven. Members unavoidably delayed but attending OSSA and contributing to discussion in the halls were David Hitchcock and John Hoaglund. Their votes were included in the totals. Members who were unable to attend the meeting but who submitted votes (that were also included in the totals) were Sharon Bailin and Don Hatcher. Since Harvey Siegel voted in advance for whatever the majority voted for, his votes, though not part of the numerical totals, constitute endorsement of the decisions. AILACT members attending the meeting were Trudy Govier and Dan Boone. The voting procedure was complicated, but the results can be summarized as follows (all settled in one hour, given prior e-mail activity!):

The Board decided to cooperate with Dan Fasko's offer of a half-rate trial subscription to Inquiry for nonsubscribing members.

Electronic meetings of the membership, accompanied by postal ballots when necessary, were approved.

Having a Web site was resoundingly endorsed, as was the selection of David Hitchcock as Webmaster. David has accepted on the condition that others help. Deep appreciation was expressed for David's willingness to assume this crucial task.

A Web address based in a university, such as <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca> was preferred over more expensive alternatives, partly because of cost and partly because of access to technical expertise.

Michael Scriven's suggested list of items for Web content was generally endorsed. Most items received strong endorsement.

Don Hatcher's financial report was received and noted. It reported a balance on May 2, 2001 of US\$1,151.40. Strong appreciation for Don Hatcher's fine work as Secretary-Treasurer was expressed.

Topics for the coming year include the following (followed by name of Board member charged with reporting and recommending):

1. AILACT's relationship to, and programs in conjunction with, philosophical organizations, such as the sessions at the APA Division meetings. Jerry Nosich
2. Membership (size, nature, dues, criteria, neglected populations, desirability of expansion vs. maintaining our current core). Connie Missimer

3. AILACT's relationship to journals, such as Informal Logic, Inquiry, Teaching Philosophy, and Argumentation. Ralph Johnson

4. AILACT's Constitution, By Laws. Maurice Finocchiaro

5. AILACT's relationship to other organizations interested in informal logic, critical thinking, thinking, and argumentation. Tony Blair

6. Budget. Don Hatcher and Bob Ennis

7. Jobs and other economic opportunities in informal logic and critical thinking. Sharon Bailin

Non-Board-members are invited to make suggestions relevant to these topics, to participate in the e-mail discussions, and to suggest other topics.