

ISSM Board Meeting 9/26/24

In attendance: Leah Hought, Angela Weisl, Mike Evans, Valerie Johnson, Elisabeth Wook, and Kyle Gardo

Meeting notes approved unanimously.

Elections: four positions in total to fill, including the Executive Officer of Finance

Leah will send out call for nominations next week (9/30 or 10/1) and give folks ten days to self-nominate. The ballot will then go out for two weeks, so that new board can be announced at the end of October.

Discussion of troubles associated with filling the Finance position. How do we get more interest in the position by making it less daunting?

- We have gotten inquiries after previous calls for nominations, but nobody has put themselves forward.
- Follow up with ad hoc finance committee to see what has been done to find funding sources.
- Perhaps more clearly split 501c paperwork responsibilities and the officer position that would fundraise, budget, etc. once non-profit established.
- Seek out legal expertise; some lawyers might consult on this issue pro-bono.

Conferences

- Kalamazoo session will need to be consolidated this year; only one has full roster at present. So, we need to be cognizant of “popularity” of topics moving forward. Sci Fi and diversity, equity, and inclusion have been big draws over the past two years, for example.
- NJ Conference this summer was a success and under budget! There were roughly 35 people registered in-person and 25 remote, so it is possible to hold summer conferences.
- Carol has offered to run a fall 2025 conference online with the help of a committee, including Angela and Mike.
 - Board agrees to move forward with this.
- We need a location for our next hybrid conference
 - Suggested next conference be in the fall instead of summer 2026, which is when Gower, NCS, and IAS will all take place
 - We need to be aware of this two-year cycle when planning summer conferences, meaning the next “open” option would be 2027
 - One idea: piggyback off other major conferences like Leeds, Medieval Academy, and MLA so members could do two conferences for the price of one ticket.
 - Angela is going to reach out to London and CA contacts; Val is going to reach out to Ball State contact

