

**Posthumanism Research Institute
Annual General Meeting
June 13, 2023 – 13:00 (EST)**

The meeting took place on Lifesize and started at 13:10 due to log in difficulties.

Present: Joydeep Chakraborty, Christine Daigle (CD), Cagdas Dedeoglu (CD*), David Fancy, Mitch Goldsmith, Ikechukwu Daniel Ikerionwu, Zoë Ann Laks, Russel Kilbourn, Ralph Mercer, Richard Mitchell, Camila Mugan, Elizabeth Neswald, Véronique Rousseau, Sarah Stang, Amanda van Beinum,

Agenda

Approval of the agenda

CD noted that an item was missing, i.e: approval of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated (DF/VR). CARRIED

1. Introductions

Members in attendance said a few words introducing themselves to the group.

2. Approval of minutes of AGM 2022 (circulated)

Motion to approve the minutes of AGM 2022 as circulated (MG/VR). CARRIED

3. Director's report (circulated)

Members welcomed the good news contained in the report. Questions were asked on the budget and related expectations for the PRI. CD offered clarifications: at minimum, we are to keep our level of activity but aim to increase it. The Director will engage in a conversation with the VPR each year, reporting on activity and plans and negotiating appropriate budgeting.

4. Amendments to the bylaws

- a. Moved that section (c) under “Governance” > “Director” be amended to read: “The term of the Director will be 3 years, renewable at the general assembly of members.” (Blaikie/Goldsmith)
- b. Moved that section (a) under “Governance” > “Executive Committee” be amended to read: “The Institute will be governed by an Executive Committee comprising up to 5 Affiliate members, the Director of the Institute, at least one Graduate Affiliate member and the Editor of *Interconnections. Journal of Posthumanism/Interconnexions. Revue de Posthumanisme.*” (Daigle/Goldsmith)
- c. Moved that section (a) under “Governance” > “Director” be amended to read: “The Director will be in charge of overseeing the operations of the Institute and the budget, calling regular meetings of the Executive Committee, and overseeing grant applications, workshop and conference organizations, and the fulfilling of all objectives and plans set in the current document and by the general assembly of members each spring.” (Daigle/ Goldsmith)

- d. Moved that section (b) under “Governance” > “Director” be amended to read: “The Director will submit an annual report to the general assembly of members, the Advisory Board, and the Vice-President, Research each spring.” (Daigle/Goldsmith)

CD provided context for these housekeeping changes that have been discussed in previous AGMs and that the membership wanted to introduce to the bylaws. The amendments were circulated ahead of the meeting as per the bylaws.

Omnibus motion to adopt the amendments as circulated (DF/MG). CARRIED

5. **Renewal of the Director**

CD circulated the call for director a few times and despite expressions of interest, no one was in a position to start this spring due to workload and sabbatical timing. CD is willing to continue for one more year to allow for those interested to step forward and be elected next year.

Motion to renew Christine Daigle as Director for one year (VR/II). CARRIED

6. **Election of the Executive Committee**

Véronique Rousseau self-nominated by email to serve as graduate student member
Fiona Blaikie self-nominated by email to serve as executive member and Associate Director
Russ Kilbourn self-nominated by email
David Fancy self-nominated by email
Ralph Mercer self-nominated by email
Trevor Norris self-nominated at the meeting

CD noted that this was a diverse slate of nominees, representing different fields and career stages, thus aligning with the goals of inclusivity of the PRI.

Motion to elect the slate of nominees to the Executive Committee (MG/RM). CARRIED

Motion to elect Fiona Blaikie as Associate Director (VR/MG). CARRIED

7. **Plans for 2023-24**

CD reminded members of the plans for the summer camp to be held next summer. The dates need to be fixed and once this is done, information will be forwarded to the whole membership. This should be by early September.

Readings groups are pausing for the summer time and will resume their activities in August. Members are invited to submit suggestions for books/themes they would like to study or discuss.

The speaker series will continue, hosting a diversity of topics and folks at different stages of their careers. CD has secured the first speaker whose talk will be scheduled for late September.

8. **Other items**

No item was brought forward by members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting (MG/II). CARRIED