4S timeline archive 2014-2015

 Gary Downey

Note: You can search easily via the Navigation tool in Word. See the image below.



# Annual Meeting

## 2015 November

Lucy Suchman indicated that preparations for the Barcelona meeting are on track.  Daniel Breslau, Lucy Suchman, and Tania Pérez-Bustos from 4S are involved in an advisory role.  Erika Szymanski added that 6S members are helping coordinate graduate student activity.

Suchman announced that the 2017 4S meeting will be held in Boston.  Wes Shrum indicated that the society has received a good hotel deal for the Boston area.

Downey announced that we’ve received a new proposal for Bali in 2018 to go along with the proposal received from Sydney.  Shrum requested that Council make a decision soon to secure a good hotel deal.  Downey replied that we need a thread of Council discussion followed by a vote.  Council agreed to the goal of making a decision by 15 December. [Discussion subsequent to the meeting has pushed back this target date.]

For 2019, 4S has received bids from Chicago, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia.  Wes Shrum requested a Council decision soon to secure the offered low rates.  The dates under consideration range from late August to early September.  A discussion and vote will occur after the meeting.  Per its earlier decision, Council will seek to avoid overlap with the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. [A subsequent Council vote placed New Orleans at the top of this list.]

Daniel Breslau indicated that this is the largest stand-alone meeting: 1200 papers, participation from 41 countries, with significantly increased participation from Latin America and Asia.  Breslau mentioned that some abstracts were rejected due to poorly written English, making them impossible to evaluate.  Overall, 3-4% of abstracts were rejected.  Breslau also noted the problem of late cancellations and no-shows, indicating that 30-40 papers out of the 1200 will likely not be given.  Program data and registration data are not linked and program organizers tend to keep people on the program when their attendance is in doubt.  Breslau recommended the development of stronger linkages between program data and registration data.  We also need to work on improving institutional memory with regard to program management, something that Breslau will be doing with future program organizers.

Downey noted that there could be overlap between STS Making and Doing events and other entertainment events scheduled for the conference.  Downey recommended that the program chair be allowed to add one or two entertainment events to the conference, but keep them separate from the STS Making and Doing component of the program.

## 2015 August

Denver 2015 Meeting: Daniel Breslau announced that the preliminary program is now available for the Denver meeting.  13 September is the date for the final program.  Breslau noted that this will be the largest 4S meeting ever in North America.  There are about 1300 paper presentations; 88 open sessions were submitted; the program will include 276 sessions.  Breslau suggested that since many submitted sessions are highly topical this year, in future calls we encourage submission of more conceptually based open sessions.  Breslau also indicated that room space will be tight within the hotel and discussed the possibility of developing workshop roundtables at future meetings.  Breslau suggested that roundtables be a point of emphasis rather than a place for papers that do not fit into regular sessions.  In discussion, Council members expressed some concern with the number of parallel sessions.  Downey suggested that we add a day to future meetings to relieve some of this pressure.

Wen-Hua Kuo asked about the place of the Making and Doing session in the program.  Downey indicated there will be a separate program for the making and doing session and that its timing and location will not compete with the regular sessions.  Sulfikar Amir, Chair of the Making and Doing Committee, reviewed procedures for its set-up.  Amir indicated that his committee accepted 76 proposals, but some have been withdrawn.  Amir expects about 65 Making and Doing presentations.  Amir recognized the work of the program organizer – Daniel Breslau -- in making certain that paper presentations don’t overlap with the Making and Doing session.  Amir also mentioned that a website for this session will be launched in September.

Gary Downey announced that the forthcoming meeting will be the society’s 40th.  Plans are in development for a celebration at the banquet, along with a rebranding of the website.  Downey asked Council members to send suggestions for the celebration.  Kelly Moore applauded the quality of the Denver program.

Barcelona 2016 Meeting: Lucy Suchman reviewed the ongoing discussions with EASST about the registration process.  Wes Shrum added that we’ll be using EASST’s registration system, which will require invoicing registrants.  Shrum also noted that submitted panels will remain open within that system, which does not allow for a fully populated session.  We will need to develop a mechanism for handling populated sessions.  Suchman added that we’ll need to clearly and persistently inform society members that they may submit populated sessions.  Suchman noted that they’re working on a dual membership system where registrants receive membership to both 4S and EASST with their registration.  Suchman also mentioned that organizers will be making most of the city’s cultural attractions and political activity at the conference.

2017 meeting: Wes Shrum discussed the Boston proposal for the 2017 meetings.  Work is already being done to locate hotels.  Shrum noted that there are a limited number of available hotels and they are not cheap.  Hotel prices are not likely to be under $179 per night.  Downey announced that we’ve also received a preliminary inquiry from Sydney about the 2017 meeting.  Suchman recommended that while it may be too late to investigate Sydney for 2017, we might consider it for 2018.  Suchman added that being on the east coast of North American for 2017 makes sense since it follows the traditional geographical progression of 4S meetings.  Kelly Moore motioned that we approve the plan to hold the 2017 meetings in Boston.  Wen-Hua Kuo seconded.  [A Council vote following the meeting approved the motion.]

## 2015 March

Lucy Suchman discussed the Barcelona 4S/EASST meeting.  Work is continuing on the development of a contract.  We are still waiting on a contract from the Barcelona group.

## 2014 October

Claire Waterton updated Council on the 2016 EASST/4S meeting.  Waterton noted that EASST President Fred Steward’s preferred site is a university.  EASST is seeking a university-based sponsorship.  Several potential university sponsors in Barcalona, Spain are being contacted.  Steward is also open to a hybrid conference arrangement using university personnel and a professional conference organizer and/or hotel venue.

## 2014 August

Leandro Rodríguez Medina reported that the committee accepted 1003 papers, but only around 700 individuals had registered by the original deadline.  Another 200 registered during the second registration period, delaying publication of the final schedule until mid-July.  Rodríguez Medina indicated that papers were submitted by scholars from all over the world.  Discussion: Council members questioned the delayed registrations.  Rodríguez Medina suggested that they may have resulted from the meeting/Congress expense and delayed decisions about travel funding.  Downey pointed out that the description of the open panel process in the original call for papers appears to have been misleading, for some session chairs were surprised to learn they did not have final control over panel titles and the names of contributors. Rodríguez Medina indicated that the open panel process works well if there is sufficient room space.  There was some discussion about this and Downey indicated that he will form a 4S Annual Meeting Review Committee, chaired by President-elect Lucy Suchman, to assess the open panel process and other issues and make recommendations for future meetings.

Downey reported that the 2015 meeting is set for Denver.  Daniel Breslau will serve as Program Chair.  Waterton has liaised with EASST about the 2016 meeting.  Waterton reported that Fred Steward – EASST President – has indicated that EASST would like a more proactive role in co-organizing the next meeting.  EASST Council identified five issues that need better coordination: format; posting and branding of the meeting; better communication between 4S and EASST; joint agreement on the conference structure, budget, branding, & offers for membership; and use of joint conference management systems.  Also, EASST Council feels that they should take the lead in appointing the program chair.

Waterton also reported that EASST has not yet identified a location for the 2016 meeting, but would like to maintain leadership over its location.  Under consideration is an academic location in southern Europe for a September or October meeting.  A venue is needed that could handle up to 1500 attendees.  Offers have been received from locations in Portugal and Italy, but EASST prefers not to go there because they’ve met there previously.  EASST also has received an offer from a commercial firm for a conference in Barcelona.

Downey noted that a formal invitation has been received from SHOT to meet with them in Philadelphia in 2017.  He is awaiting a follow-up from SHOT’s governing council.

Discussion: Shrum reminded Council that a “joint” EASST/4S meeting refers to a fully integrated meeting.  Joint meetings have focused on the intellectual component, not necessarily the technical aspects.  Waterton noted, however, that EASST’s concern is that technical requirements for 4S interact with and affect the intellectual dimensions of the meeting.  Waterton felt that it is important to have face-to-face contact with EASST to remove any misunderstanding.  Pinch pointed out that the financial structures of the two organizations are very different and that 4S depends heavily on the annual meeting for its financial existence.  He added that 4S takes a financial risk in the joint meetings and, hence, should be involved in identifying a location.  Suchman volunteered to take the lead in clarifying concerns expressed by EASST and mediating issues of concern to the two societies.

Claire Waterton made a motion that the 4S Council expresses its commitment to working together with EASST to organize the 2016 meeting.  Vivian Lagesen seconded the motion.  The motion passed unanimously. [Note: Downey subsequently indicated that he will respond formally to the communication from EASST’s Council, including the appointment of Suchman to facilitate the process.]

## 2014 March

Downey announced that Claire Waterton is serving as future meetings coordinator for the joint 2016 meeting with EASST. Downey also exchanged messages with Fred Steward, EASST President, proposing to hold the 2016 meeting in north Africa, including either Morocco or Tunisia. Steward responded that EASST prefers to meeting in Europe, at a European university with STS representation. EASST has not yet selected a site. 4S has encouraged EASST to locate a site in southern Europe

2015 4S/ESOCITE meeting*.* Program update: Leandro Rodriguez Medina, Co-Chair; Site update: Wes Shrum, Program Officer. Decision item: none. Rodriguez Medina reported that 1269 paper submissions and 49 sessions have been received.  A significant number of submissions are in Spanish and Portuguese.   The Program Committee plans to review and make decisions by 7 April.

Downey reported that we have lost one hotel for the conference.  Other hotels in the vicinity of the Intercontinental Hotel were visited, but an adequate replacement was not found.  A decision was made to compress space and add a day to the conference by starting regular sessions on Wednesday morning.  Still, paper presentations will have 18 minutes rather than the usual 12 minutes, an increase of 50%.

4S Council will now meet on Tuesday afternoon with an opening plenary that evening.  The banquet may be scheduled for Thursday evening because organizers expect it to include a tango show.   Downey reported that the 4S will likely lose some money at the meeting, but attempts will be made to minimize losses.  Moore recommended and Council agreed that session organizers should try to distribute papers among presenters in advance for better session coordination.

**Denver 2015 meeting:** Shrum and Downey visited the Denver hotel prior to the Council meeting.  It is located downtown, and has a large open space on the concourse level that could host a "making and doing" fair/exhibition.  Plenty of meeting rooms will be available.  The host Sheraton Hotel is located at the end of a mile-long walking street with a free bus passing by every few minutes.

4S received a preliminary proposal from a SHOT member to hold a joint meeting in Philadelphia in 2017.  Council expressed interest. The SHOT governing board is now considering formalizing the proposal. Council members expressed interest both in returning to East Asia, where we have a growing number of members, and in holding a meeting at some point in Africa, where an STS network is growing.  The issue remains open.

# Budget info

## 2015 November

Paige Miller indicated that Vann’s salary is set to increase next year due to a prior agreement. Miller predicted a sizeable surplus for the year.  Some expenses were lower than anticipated and the society has received additional income.  Miller predicted that we’ll end the year with a balance that places us within the steady-state range.

## 2015 August

Treasurer Paige Miller reviewed the current budget.  Miller predicted that we’ll end the year with a small annual surplus and an overall budget that fits within a recommended steady state. Downey discussed possible additional future expenses such as providing more support for students.  Downey also indicated the possibility of more future revenue from Sage when the journal contract is renegotiated.  The budget nonetheless is currently at its desired steady state.

## 2015 March

Adding a check-box on the registration page for donations to 4S: Gary Downey led the discussion.  Downey indicated that two recommendations have been put forward for Council consideration.  One is to add a check-off box for donations for student travel.  The second is to increase membership fees to increase support for student travel to annual meetings.  Lucy Suchman expressed support for the addition of a check-off box for student travel and also possibly another one for support of ESTS.  Downey recommended that we do this on an experimental basis and prioritize student travel.  Kelly Moore recommended that we increase membership fees due to the costs and value of additional 4S activity.  Moore noted that other societies have check-off boxes for various causes in their membership forms.  Paige Miller added that the society has increased its annual expenses by about $50K (especially by launching the new journal) and has now reached steady-state budget management, so higher membership fees may be warranted if Council approves new initiatives.  Downey suggested that he appoint a committee to consider raising membership fees and asked about committee membership.  Moore recommended that the committee be composed of Council members and one outside member.  Suchman recommended a simplified committee arrangement.  A decision was reached that the committee would be formed by Downey and led by Suchman.  Abby Kinchy added a recommendation that we consider raising membership fees for faculty, but not for students.  Claire Waterton agreed with this recommendation and added that several check-off amounts be included.  Council members expressed some concern about a check-off box for ESTS, but favored one for student travel.

Paige Miller briefly presented the current budget situation.  The current balance is close to our recommended steady state.  Miller projected net income for the year, but added that this figure does not take into consideration additional ad hoc expenses.

## 2014 October

Paige Miller provided a budget update.  4S broke even on the Buenos Aires meeting, which was good news.  Currently, the 4S balance is near our steady state.  Downey asked about income and expenses for the rest of the year.  Miller noted that we could end up in the black for the year.

## 2014 August

Paige Miller reported that 4S has added new annualized expenses, including especially costs for the new open access journal, a spring Council meeting, and support for new 4S officers.  Currently, Miller anticipates that we’ll break even or be a bit in the red for the year, depending upon the last few months revenues and expenses.  Downey expressed concern that 4S could end up in the red for the year.  Downey also reminded Council that we affirmed the principle of steady state management, but over a three-year period to accommodate annual variation in losses and gains due to annual meeting location.  Miller also provided an assessment for 2015, reminding Council of its intention to undertake a substantial re-design of its website, funds permitting.

## 2014 March

Downey formalized budget planning with Paige Miller, Treasurer and Wes Shrum, Program Officer

# Budget – Discretionary Spending by President

## 2016-2017 Lucy Suchman (submitted September 10, 2019)

Having gone through my files, I’m afraid that I can’t add any further details to the discussion below. This is because, to the best of my memory, I didn’t actually do any discretionary spending … all expenses were within budgeted categories (e.g. my own expenses for meeting participation) or in response to resolutions brought to Council on behalf of others. That seemed sufficient during my tenure as President.

## 2014-2015 Gary Downey (submitted September 9, 2019)

When Paige Miller, Steve Zehr, and I established the $2,000 limit on discretionary spending by the President, my understanding was that it applied to the full two-year term. Paige cannot remember if it was annually or for the whole term. We established it informally during my second year. I did not take the matter to Council before I stepped down. I also likely exceeded that total by several hundred dollars.

Timeline

Prior to March 2015: no policy

When I took office sometime between October 2013 and the end of the year (clarified in 2014), Council had just accepted the Governance Review Committee report (Bijker, Jasanoff, Lynch, Wajcman) and established the 4S Treasurer position as an officer of the Society. The 4S Treasurer maintains custody of funds and issues payments consistent with the Charter and Council policy. The Society had no policy or procedures for discretionary spending by the President. I assumed I had no such authority.

March 2015: Paige, Steve, and Gary establish informal practice with $2,000 limit

In March 2015, Wes Shrum informed me that Susan Arnold had played an important role in setting up the Barcelona meeting. She had paid her own costs of travel, including $1200 air travel. Susan is Wes's partner.

I consulted with Paige and Steve about establishing a discretionary fund for the President. I did not want to bring this issue before Council and perhaps embarrass Wes. I considered Susan's work a great gift to the Society. They agreed with the idea of a discretionary fund with a $2,000 limit. I did not follow up with Paige re the amount of the reimbursement.

September 2015: Gary requests $1,150 payment for video celebrating 4S's 25th year. Steve and Paige agree to pay.

I realized in late summer 2015 that the Denver meeting would mark 4S's 25th year. Council had made no preparations to mark or celebrate the occasion. I judged that it would have been embarrassing not to do so. I planned a video to play at the banquet.

Via Technoscience, I requested documents and video clips from members. I contracted with a local video editor to help me produce a storyboard and 10 minute video. The invoice was for $1,150. [Here's the video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=De-iG6fxiWs).

Summary: I spent $1,200+ for Susan Arnold and $1,150 for video editing. I informed Lucy Suchman about this informal policy established with two Council officers.

# Charter

## 2015 March

6S Charter: Shobita Parthasarathy led discussion.  Parthasarathy asked for comments on proposed changes to the 6S Charter.  There are two key changes.  One is to elect rather than appoint 6S representatives and the other is to extend the commitment from two to three years.  Parthasarathy noted that additional duties would be required of elected 6S representatives.  There was no further discussion on the proposal.  Parthasarathy made a motion to approve.  Downey seconded.  A vote will occur after the meeting.  [A subsequent Council vote approved changes to the charter.]

# Council meeting attendees

## 2015 November

Present: President Gary Downey; President-elect Lucy Suchman; Council members: Vivian Lagesen, Wen-Hua Kuo, Kelly Moore, Abby Kinchy, Claire Waterton, Sulfikar Amir, Tania Pérez Bustos, Shobita Parthasarathy, Daniel Breslau, Gwen Ottinger; Program Officer Wes Shrum; Treasurer Paige Miller; Secretary Stephen Zehr; 6S Members: Bryn Whiteley, John Lunsford, Erika Amethyst Szymanski

## 2015 August

Members and Officers Present: Gary Downey, Daniel Breslau, Abby Kinchy, Paige Miller, Lucy Suchman, Vivian Lagesen, Shobita Parthasarathy, Wen-Hua Kuo, Wes Shrum, Tania Pérez-Bustos, Kelly Moore, Sulfikar Amir

## 2015 March Webex

Members participating: 4S President: Gary Downey; 4S President-elect: Lucy Suchman; 4S Council Members: Vivian Lagesen, Claire Waterton, Daniel Breslau, Shobita Parthasarathy, Abby Kinchy, Kelly Moore, Tania Pérez-Bustos, Sulfikar Amir, Wen-Hua Kuo; 4S Officers: Treasurer Paige Miller, Secretary Stephen Zehr, Program Officer Wes Shrum.

## 2014 October Buenos Aires

Council Members and Officers Present: Gary Downey, Wes Shrum, Paige Miller, Stephen Zehr, Lucy Suchman, Daniel Breslau, Kelly Moore, Tania Pérez Bustos, Sulfikar Amir, Wen-Hua Kuo, Shobita Parthasarathy, Claire Waterton.  Joined by Daniel Kleinman for 1st part of the meeting.

## 2014 August Webex

Present: Gary Downey, 4S President; Paige Miller, 4S Treasurer; Stephen Zehr, 4S Secretary; Wes Shrum, 4S Program Officer; 4S Council members – Kelly Moore, Abby Kinchy, Vivian Lagesen, Claire Waterton, Wen-Hua Kuo, Leandro Rodríguez Medina, Sulfikar Amir, Kenji Ito; 6S members – Jess Bier, Bryn Whiteley; Lucy Suchman, 4S President Elect; Council-Elect members – Shobita Parthasarathy, Tania Pérez-Bustos.

## 2014 March San Francisco

Members Present: President, Gary Downey; Treasurer, Paige Miller; Secretary, Stephen Zehr; Program Officer, Wes Shrum; Council members, Abby Kinchy, Kenji Ito, Vivian Lagesen, Kelly Moore, Wen-Hua Kuo, Sulfikar Amir, Leandro Rodriguez Medina, and Kaushik Sunder Rajan.  Council member Claire Waterton joined via Skype on Saturday morning.  Digital Subcommittee member Ali Kenner joined via Skype during discussion of 4S digital objectives.

# Elections

## 2015 November

Claire Waterton reported the results of the Council and 6S elections.

## 2015 August

Gary Downey announced the winners of the 4S Council and 6S elections.  They are Gwen Ottinger, Oscar Javier Malgonado Castañeda, and Sara Wylie for 4S Council and Erika Amethyst Szymanski for 6S.  Downey communicated with all winning and losing candidates.  President-elect Lucy Suchman applauded the strength of the election slate for both elections.  Downey noted his practice of asking individuals who did not win the election to serve on 4S committees.

Shobita Parthasarathy confirmed that the first 6S election went well.  Several graduate students expressed interest in becoming candidates.  Parthasarathy also announced that she is working hard to stimulate interest and initiative within 6S.  A full slate of student activities is anticipated for the Denver conference.  Parthasarathy noted that although 6S is currently going through a period of transition, there is much optimistic for future activity.  Parthasarathy also recommended that 6S officers be invited to join future Council webex meetings.

## 2015 March

Nominations for Council: Claire Waterton indicated that we have 22 nominations under consideration.  The nominees’ credentials were discussed.  Following the Council meeting, Stephen Zehr will send voting instructions that will likely involve a two stage voting procedure to reach a suitable number of candidates.  Once that list is obtained, Claire Waterton will apply the Council’s decision tree for Council candidates and begin contacting nominees to gauge their interest in standing for election.

## 2014 August

Claire Waterton reported on the new nominations process.  This year nominations were solicited from Council members and the membership.  Council developed criteria for good nominees, which included regular participation in 4S and contribution to gender, intellectual, and geographical diversity of Council.  The nomination process for 2014 was accomplished at the spring Council meeting.  [Note: These procedures will be documented on the 4S website for future use.]  Waterton also announced the new 4S Council members, Shobita Parthasarathy, Tania Pérez-Bustos, and Daniel Breslau, and the President-Elect Lucy Suchman

Claire Waterton reported that the new President and Council nomination procedures instituted in last Spring’s meeting should still work even if we didn’t meet face-to-face.

## 2014 March

Chair Waterton discussed criteria that have been identified for good Council membership.  The six criteria included: ability to do a good job on the work required for Council, years of involvement/attendance of 4S/knowledge of 4S, previous good work in similar organizational/management role, good leadership in STS, scholarly excellence, and willingness to attend next three meetings of 4S (and scheduled spring meetings either in person or by Skype).

Council discussed these criteria and added “being effective at collaboration” to the list.

Waterton also reviewed criteria for diverse representation within Council including: gender, geographical distribution, and area of intellectual focus.  Waterton also suggested Council take into consideration characteristics of the current membership as background to decision-making about future nominees.

Council received a list of nominees that emerged from membership and Council recommendations, both in response to *Technoscience Update*requests and informal communications via email.  There was discussion of each nominee.

The ten voting members of Council (nine members and the President) were then asked to vote in a closed ballot for six Council candidates without rank order.  Aggregated results identified 10 candidates with three or more votes.  These 10 candidates were then rank-ordered by voting Council members in a closed ballot. The Secretary reported the aggregated results

Council asked Waterton to produce a decision tree following both this rank order and the criteria identified.  Waterton will then contact nominees to inform them of Council's desire that they stand for election.

Council then discussed the nine nominations for 4S President.  Council voted on the candidates in a closed ballot.  The results were aggregated, producing a slate of four candidates.  Council decided not to rank order these candidates, instead asking President Downey to produce a decision tree of nominees.  Downey indicated an interest in seeking confidential reactions from Council members to a draft decision tree.

Downey raised the issue of whether potential candidates should be informed of fellow candidates.  Council felt that the traditional practice of not informing candidates of their competitors should be maintained.

Downey raised the issue of the practice of not releasing number of votes in an election.  Council agreed to maintain this practice.

# Ethnografilm

## 2015 August

Wes Shrum indicated that the April festival went smoothly, including about 100 films from 50 different countries.  Shrum also mentioned that Ethnografilm Asia and Enthnografilm Africa were being held as well.  Submissions are now open for the 2016 Ethnografilm.  Shrum briefly discussed the possibility of showing Ethnografilm films at 4S, but they would need to be short for spatial and timing reasons.

## 2014 August

Wes Shrum reported that the 1st year was highly successful.  90 films were shown.  About two-thirds of the film directors were in the audience.  Shrum reported that plans for next year’s Ethnografilm include the addition of moderators and question and answer sessions.  Downey reminded Council that 4S provides 3000 Euros in support of Ethnografilm each year, which goes to rental of the theater. He expressed hope that 4S digital publications staff might find ways of integrating relevant content from Ethnografilm into a revised and upgraded 4S website.

## 2014 March

**Ethnografilm update:**  Shrum reported that 400 submissions were received.   Organization of the event is moving forward.  Shrum noted that a minimal number of short films were submitted.  They need to be encouraged next year.

# *ESTS*

## 2014 October

Downey announced that the open access journal will begin as a stand-alone publication, similar to ST&HV.

Kelly Moore presented Daniel Kleinman’s description of his plans for the journal.  Moore noted that Kleinman’s focus will be specifically on development of the journal rather than design issues not essential to academic scholarship.

Since Daniel Kleinman is present but needs to teach a class soon, Downey moved to the business item of naming the open access journal.  Kelly Moore led the discussion.   Moore noted that we have feedback from the membership, comments from Daniel Kleinman, and a list of potential titles to work from.  Tania Pérez Bustos discussed her suggestion for the journal title – Aperos.  In her review of membership comments she noted some reaction against it and also acknowledged the comments from Kleinman about the value of a more generic title.  Downey noted that the significance of the word “Open” (a part of several title suggestions) may erode over time as open access journals become more common.  Downey asked whether we might be able to eliminate some potential titles at this point and vote on remaining titles later.  In reviewing comments received from 29 members, Lucy Suchman noted that the two preferred titles are Aperos: Open STS and Engaging Science, Technology, and Society.  Suchman mentioned that she likes the ambiguity of “open” at this point, but could live with both “Open” and “Engaging”.  Suchman doesn’t share the negative responses to Aperos.  Sulfikar Amir mentioned that it is important for a title to reflect the identity of the field.  Amir also indicated that there are many journals with the word “open” in the title.  Amir indicated that he prefers Engaging Science, Technology and Society because it sounds active in asking people to explore S&T.  Shobita Parthasarathy indicated that she likes Engaging Science, Technology and Society.  Parthasarathy noted the comment from the membership about the double meaning of “engaging”.  Parthasarathy suggested that “open” is a bit redundant.  She also likes Aperos but is sensitive to whether it will show up in a web search.  Kelly Moore interjected that Managing Editor Katie Vann feels that people would still be able to find a journal in a web search with a name like Aperos as long as it includes a subtitle.  Daniel Breslau agreed that “open” is superfluous.  There are many journals with this word in the title.  Breslau is in favor of a two-part title.  If the journal takes off, Breslau mentioned that the title Aperos would be provocative.  Paige Miller indicated that she likes Engaging Science, Technology, and Society but finds the other titles acceptable as well.  Wes Shrum likes Aperos but does not have a strong opinion on the title.  Wen-Hua Kuo agreed that Aperos may have cultural attachments that we need to be aware of.  Moore mentioned that the German cultural meaning sometimes associated with the French word “apéros” is as a fashionable middle-class word for aperitif.  Suchman likes a short-hand reference to the journal – a hybrid title of some sort like Aperos.

After everyone had an opportunity to comment, Downey indicated that we can probably eliminate the titles: Science, Technology & Society Open and Open Science, Technology & Society.   This leaves us with the two titles of Engaging Science, Technology and Society and Aperos: Open STS.  Downey then questioned Council about their views of Aperos as the title with Engaging Science, Technology and Society as a subtitle.  Some support emerged for the idea.  Daniel Kleinman indicated that he found this title acceptable.  However, there was some disagreement among Council at that point about whether “aperos” and “engaging” in the same title might mix metaphors.

Following this discussion, the following titles were on the table: Engaging Science, Technology and Society; Aperos: Engaging Science, Technology and Society; and Aperos: Journal of Science, Technology and Society.  Kleinman indicated that his two concerns are people connecting to the journal and the long-term staying power of the title.  Kleinman supported the use of the word “Engaging” and also feels that Aperos: Engaging Science, Technology and Society is acceptable as a title.  Downey reiterated the three options – noted above – and indicated that we’ll have two rounds of voting by Council members.  Kleinman then had to leave the meeting.

Downey indicated that we potentially need to change voting procedures.  Past practice has been to make a decision based upon a minimum of seven votes as long as there are not major objections within the minority.  However, this number was based on a total of ten possible votes (nine Council members and the President).  Downey noted that we now have 11 voters with the addition of President-elect Lucy Suchman.  Downey asked Council what would be a compelling number of votes in the majority.  Moore recommended that we need consistency across issues and finds seven votes an acceptable majority.  There were no further comments.  Downey indicated that we will continue the practice of requiring seven votes to pass an issue.  There was no Council opposition.

Journal title: Breslau motioned that we hold a Council vote on the remaining titles for the open access journal.  Waterton seconded.

# Exhibit and Prize Coordinator

## 2014 March

 Downey clarified title and duties of Wenda Bauchspies, 4S Exhibit and Prize Coordinator

# Governance

## 2015 November

*4S Statement of Purpose Committee:*  Downey indicated that this work is ongoing and requires further development.

Gary Downey recommended that in the future Council consider expanding its membership from 9 to 12 members.

## 2015 August

Gary Downey indicated that there is some confusion about transfer of leadership at the Presidential and Council levels.  Downey suggested that new officers and Council members begin their duties at the annual meeting.  Daniel Breslau expressed favorability to the idea.  Downey motioned that new officers and Council members will begin their office on the last day of the annual meeting.  Lucy Suchman seconded.  [A Council vote following the meeting approved the motion.]

Gary Downey mentioned that the ad hoc Governance Review Committee recommended an update to the 4S statement of purpose.  One suggestion has been received from the call for comments by the membership.  Downey asked Council for further suggestions and indicated that he’ll work with co-chair Claire Waterton to develop a draft to distribute to Council.  They will aim for a final proposal for the Denver meeting.

## 2015 March

Conflict of Interest Guidelines: Kelly Moore led discussion on conflict of interest guidelines in 4S prize committees.  Moore indicated that the proposed set of guidelines is adapted from the U.S. National Science Foundation.  Discussion: Claire Waterton questioned what we would do in the case of student papers where names of authors are not attached.  Moore suggested that in cases of anonymity, the committee simply use good sense.  Lucy Suchman recommended that in this situation, we ask reviewers to indicate whether they recognize any papers and authors and, if so, recuse themselves.  Moore made a motion to approve the guidelines.  Waterton seconded.  A vote will occur after the meeting.  [A subsequent Council vote approved the guidelines.]

## 2014 October

Downey announced that we would not vote on any action item during the meeting.  Two Council members were unable to participate and the voting would pose some logistical problems.  All voting items will occur electronically during the weeks following the meeting.

Downey announced that he’d like to continue to hold quarterly Council meetings.  These would be virtual meetings, with the potential exception of an in-person winter or spring meeting after a new president is installed.

## 2014 August

During discussion of journal naming, a question was raised about Council voting procedures via email.  Downey reminded Council that his practice has been to seek at least seven votes in favor of a motion before passage (out of a total of 9-10 possible votes) and to table a motion for further discussion if significant Council disagreement emerges. Note: the 4S Charter defines a quorum as four members only.

Re 4S Spring Council meeting: Downey proposed that these meetings be held in alternating years, synchronized with the start of a new presidency.  This arrangement would help reduce society travel costs.  Instead, Downey would like to initiate quarterly Council meetings via Webex, starting this fall.

## 2014 March

The searches for treasurer, secretary, and program officer resulted in the appointments of Paige Miller, Stephen Zehr, and Wes Shrum, respectively. Trevor Pinch made these appointments as his final acts as President.

Downey completed Skype meetings with all Council members in November 2013 to identify topics of interest to Council members, discuss other issues facing the Society, and establish strong working relationships.

Downey outlined the theme of his presidency -- “critical participation” (President's message, *Technoscience*, December 2013). Downey also described his goal of actively involving the 4S membership in Council decision making to a maximum extent.

The new governance structure approved in San Diego provides for the President to appoint non-Council members to the prize committees.  Downey has implemented this option by adding one non-Council member to each committee.

Downey clarified the roles of handbook editors (final authority over handbook contents), Handbook Committee (intellectual oversight), and Publications Committee Chair (procedural oversight) in the development of the new volume.

The title and duties of Wenda Bauchspies – 4S Prize Coordinator – have been clarified.

The process of charging committees has been routinized. Committees now receive a formal charge from the President.

The budget planning process through treasurer Paige Miller and Program Officer Wes Shrum has been formalized.

The 4S charter provides that the 4S President is ex officio member of all committees. Downey has also appointed 4S Secretary Stephen Zehr ex officio member of all committees to help ensure timely action and effective coordination.

The composition of the Nominations Committee has been changed. Council member Claire Waterton chairs this committee with the full Council composing its membership. The process of nominating candidates for Council and President also has been formalized, which will come under review after this year’s nomination process has been completed.

Downey has charged four new committees: Reports and Resolutions Committee, Making and Doing Committee, Mentoring Award Committee, and Building STS Award Committee. The charges of these new committees were reviewed.

The liaison process with other organizations has been formalized. Liaison officer has been added to the duties of the 4S Secretary.

The 4S website will undergo significant changes in the coming years to better serve as a vehicle for bringing members together year-round. First steps include emphasizing and making more transparent the activities of Council and committees, and re-organization of pages to clarify the workings of the society for members and non-members.

The 2014 Ludwik Fleck prize winner will be announced at the Buenos Aires meeting. The actual presentation will take place at the Denver 2015 meeting because both the winner and presenter are unable to attend the Buenos Aires meeting.

In anticipation of new business, Downey announced that the big issue facing Council and the Society this year is digital publications.

Introduce sections? One general issue discussed was the increasing size of 4S meetings, which now have 20-32 parallel sessions.  In responding to the poll after San Diego, some members expressed a sense of isolation or general loss of solidarity.  Others expressed concerns about sessions of interest to them occurring at the same time. Council discussed the possibility introducing sections, akin to the American Sociological Association.  Pros and cons were raised and discussed.  No action was taken.

Although it was time to adjourn, Downey briefly mentioned two third-rail issues.  One was the suggestion by a respondent to rename the society the Society for Social Studies of Science, Technology, and Medicine.  The other was to consider modifying the names of Bernal, Fleck, Carson, Edge, and Mullins prizes/award to include two scholars in each case, a woman and a man.  No discussion ensued and no action was taken.

2013 November

Trevor Pinch made these appointments as his final acts as President.

# Handbook

## 2015 March

Handbook Report and Update: Gary Downey indicated that things are moving smoothly on the Handbook.

## 2014 August

Handbook Committee: Stephen Zehr reported that the committee is pleased with the progress of the Handbook.  Zehr noted that the committee recently viewed a draft table of contents and provided suggestions to Handbook editors.  Overall, the committee feels that the intellectual content of the Handbook is high and represents increased geographical diversity from earlier drafts.

## 2014 March

Downey clarified roles of Handbook editors, Handbook Committee, and Publication Chairs

Downey clarified the roles of handbook editors (final authority over handbook contents), Handbook Committee (intellectual oversight), and Publications Committee Chair (procedural oversight) in the development of the new volume.

Zehr and Moore discussed updates in progress on the handbook.  A table of contents has been produced and reviewed by the Handbook Committee.  Handbook editors are at the point of contacting contributing authors.  Some members emphasized the importance of internationalizing authorship to a maximum extent. Some concern was expressed about falling behind the proposed schedule (e.g., delayed contact of authors might set the schedule back).

# Infrastructure Award

## 2015 November

Downey announced that the STS Infrastructure Award proposal was unanimously approved by Council in a vote held prior to the meeting.

## 2015 August

[Co-Chair Geof Bowker joins the meeting.] Gary Downey announced that the committee now has co-chairs.  Geof Bowker summarized the committee’s report to Council.  The key issue is to reward infrastructural work that shapes the field and builds the discipline.  Bowker added that the committee would like to recognize groups as well as individuals.  Since the report to Council is preliminary, Bowker seeks comments from Council, which would lead to development of a final proposal.  Suchman commented that she likes how the award is framed in the report.  Parthasarathy expressed some concern about potential overlap among the individuals who receive 4S awards.  How would the new award tap into a new population of people?  Bowker responded that there are identifiable people who could receive this award, but who would not receive other 4S awards.  Downey suggested that the committee look at the description of criteria in the Mentoring Award report and use that as an example for development of criteria for the infrastructure award.  Downey also suggested that the committee emphasize infrastructural work as a form of scholarship (i.e., not create a separation between service and scholarship).  Suchman motioned that Council encourages the Infrastructure Award Committee to continue its work and develop a final proposal for Council consideration.  Tania Pérez-Bustos seconded. [A Council vote following the meeting approved the motion.]

## 2014 October

Founders Award/Building STS Award:  Downey indicated that there are two candidates for the name of the award: “Building STS Award” & “Founding STS”.  In response to a prior concern of Council, Downey indicated that this award would not overlap with the mentoring award.  Discussion of the proposal followed.  Suchman said that she still had difficulties distinguishing between “building” and “mentoring”.  Suchman also expressed preference for the name “Building STS” over “Founders of STS”.  The latter suggests oldness.  Breslau added that he prefers “Building” in the title.  Amir agreed with the comments about building.  Bustos also agreed with Suchman and Breslau, expressing support for the institutional building dimensions of the award.  Parthasarathy expressed some concern about the challenges of distinguishing between this award and the mentoring and Bernal prizes.  Waterton also was a bit equivocal about the distinction.  Suchman suggested that we defer a decision about this award since we’re currently in the process of instituting two other awards.  Maybe we should wait until we see what we’re missing from the other new awards.  Moore also is confused about who might receive this award and would like to see language about diversity built into the proposal.  Moore also agreed with Suchman that we may be pushing forward something that is still confusing at this point. Kuo, on the other hand, indicated that one reason for having this award is to recognize people who build up STS in new world regions.  Some outstanding STS scholars are not visible in the English-speaking world and might be recognized through this award.  Kuo felt that the award description is sufficiently transparent and necessary to recognize people who may be ignored because they work in non-English languages. Downey concluded this item indicating that the diverse views expressed by Council will be taken back to the committee.

## 2014 August

Kenji Ito reminded Council that membership comments end 31 August.  In response to Kinchy’s concern, Ito also noted that the committee has dealt with some points of clarification between the mentoring and building STS awards.

## 2014 March

Charged as STS Building Award Committee: February Kenji Ito (chair), Vivian Lagesen, Ed Hackett (ASU), Jane Summerton (U Oslo)

Committee Chair Ito reviewed committee discussion about developing an award to acknowledge scholarly work building STS that goes beyond published books and journal articles.  STS members are involved in an array of activities to build STS as a scholarly field.  The award would recognize such work.

There was general Council discussion about “institution building” as one type of qualification for a potential awardee.

Downey recommended that the award include the term “scholarship” to recognize other forms of scholarship beyond the traditionally awarded academic publications.

Discussion ensued about what might be the award's focus.  One committee member had previously suggested the award focus on community building in STS.  Questions were raised about the word “community” limiting the geographical scope of the award, to the extent a community is understood as a collectivity of equal and independent individuals.  Such might also limit the significance of the award.  Council expressed the sentiment that the award should remain open in terms of the sorts of scholarship it honors.

The committee will take Council comments into account in formalizing its proposal.

# Liaison officer

## 2014 March

Formalized liaison process with other organizations

Added "liaison officer" to duties of 4S Secretary

Nominated Myanna Lahsen (Brazilian Institute for Space Research) to Future Earth Engagement Committee

Added link to STS-Africa network to website

Review of liaison responsibilities: Steve Zehr

Update on 4S involvement in ICSU (International Council for Science) Membership was difficult to obtain. 4S has sponsored representatives to meetings.

# Making and Doing Exhibit & Awards

## 2015 November

Downey noted that there could be overlap between STS Making and Doing events and other entertainment events scheduled for the conference.  Downey recommended that the program chair be allowed to add one or two entertainment events to the conference, but keep them separate from the STS Making and Doing component of the program.

## 2015 August

Wen-Hua Kuo asked about the place of the Making and Doing session in the program.  Downey indicated there will be a separate program for the making and doing session and that its timing and location will not compete with the regular sessions.  Sulfikar Amir, Chair of the Making and Doing Committee, reviewed procedures for its set-up.  Amir indicated that his committee accepted 76 proposals, but some have been withdrawn.  Amir expects about 65 Making and Doing presentations.  Amir recognized the work of the program organizer – Daniel Breslau -- in making certain that paper presentations don’t overlap with the Making and Doing session.  Amir also mentioned that a website for this session will be launched in September.

## 2014 October

STS Making and Doing Committee: Downey announced that the ad hoc members of the committee have agreed to serve on a permanent committee.  Gary proposed forming a standing Making and Doing Committee.  Amir seconded.   Amir asked about membership.  Downey indicated that it consists of the current ad hoc committee members for now, but we may need to vary length of terms.  Downey also reminded Council that the additional committees we’ve formed require enrolling members outside of Council.  Amir added that each current member is committed to remain on the committee until the Denver 4S meeting.  Amir advocated a 3-year committee membership with staggered terms.  Moore questioned whether a 3-year commitment is too long and advocated a 2-year commitment instead.   No action was taken to change the length of term from three to two years.  Downey then indicated that the committee charge would be altered so that making and doing procedures could be altered as necessary by the committee.

Amir raised the issue of assessing making and doing submissions to the Denver meeting.  Amir suggested that the committee receive qualitative assessments from the conference attendees, but also request comments from participants.  The committee would take these into account in their assessment of projects.  Amir advocated a fully qualitative assessment.  Downey responded that the committee should have full discretion to adjust procedures as necessary.  Wes Shrum raised a question about the process of exhibiting making and doing projects.  There needs to be clarity about how much program organizers are able to assist and how much exhibitors will need to complete themselves.  Shrum reminded Council that inexperienced exhibitors can be needy.  The committee needs to be aware of these challenges, especially as it moves to routinize the activity after the first year.  Downey indicated he will add to the committee charge language indicating that exhibitors should first contact the committee chair with questions or requests rather than conference organizers.  After completion of discussion, Downey indicated that the making and doing proposal will be added to the list of items for Council vote.

## 2014 August

Sulfikar Amir indicated that a plan is being generated to establish an annual STS Making and Doing format at 4S meetings to recognize STS scholarship that goes beyond the publication of articles and books for STS audiences. The plan is to begin accepting submissions for the Denver 2015 meeting.  Amir discussed the range of making and doing categories in the committee’s proposal.  The committee also has been working on strategies for assessing submissions.  The committee recommends more than one award in different categories. An additional issue being considered is a name for these awards.  Discussion: Downey described his successful experience this past summer running a pilot test of the making and doing process at the Dutch STS summer school with Teun Zuiderent-Jerak and Geert Somsen.  Downey reminded Council that it has approved a basic framework for this process. A final report and recommendations will be reviewed by Council this fall.

## 2014 March

Downey outlined the justification for further expanding the types of presentations that take place at 4S meetings.  The San Diego meeting successfully introduced STS films.  STS scholars produce many types of scholarship that are captured within the traditional academic presentation.  The term "making and doing" could function as an acceptable label for scholarship ranging from policy to pedagogy to the production of artifacts.  Many STS scholars have advanced labels for their versions of such work.

Committee Chair Amir reported committee discussion to date on how to formulate a call for submissions, what to include, and how such work might be evaluated with an award or awards in mind.

Council expressed enthusiasm about this opportunity.  Suggestions were made about ways to broaden the types of activities that fall under this opportunity for exhibition.  Discussion ensued about whether exhibitions would be similar to poster sessions, how conference attendees might circulate from exhibition to exhibition, and the various ways exhibitors might be able to share their activities with attendees.

Downey and Shrum visited the Denver hotel prior to coming to SF.  They reported that the concourse level of the hotel has a huge space that would serve as a perfect site for launching a making and doing fair/exhibition.

The committee will take Council comments into account in formalizing its proposal., with the goal of holding a first fair/exhibition in 2015.

# Member dues

## 2015 November

Lucy Suchman discussed several committee recommendations.  The first is to improve how we advertise the benefits of 4S membership.

The second involves offering an opt-out option for print copies of *ST&HV*.  In response to this recommendation, Council members raised the question of whether the Sage contract allowed us to do this.  Apparently, Sage currently requires that we send print copies.  However, we may renegotiate this item in future contracts.

The third recommendation involves increasing professional membership rates from $45 - $50 and the “reduced rates” from $22 to $25.  The committee also recommends adding a third “sustaining member” rate of $100.  This rate would be voluntary and proceeds would be used for a fund to assist 4S students and members from non-OECD countries to travel to 4S meetings.

The fourth recommendation is to add an automatic renewal for memberships.

The fifth recommendation is using the forthcoming combined meeting for a one-time offer of a reduced cost membership (20% off) to 4S for current EASST members.  This would be done on a one-year trial.   In discussion, Council recommended adding students to the EASST/4S discount.

Overall, Council is on board with these recommendations.  Suchman made a motion that we accept the recommendations.  Shobita Parthasarathy seconded the motion.  The motion was approved unanimously.

## 2015 August

Lucy Suchman clarified the importance of keeping membership rates affordable.  If the committee does recommend an increase it will be incremental.  Suchman also noted that the committee will consider two different membership levels, which would allow members to support those with fewer resources.  In the development of recommendations, the committee will be looking at other societies’ rate fees.

## 2014 August

Downey reminded Council that it briefly considered increasing membership dues at the Spring Council meeting, but he doesn’t find justification for doing so right now.  However, if Council pursues an increase in student travel grants, we may need to reconsider.

## 2014 March

The second general issue was whether society dues should be graduated based upon salary/income. Discussion ensued.  It was recognized that the general dues for the organization are low and that costs to attend the annual meeting are high.  Questions also were raised about whether we desire more attendees at the annual meeting given its current size.  It was noted that there is overlap between dues and registration.  People often pay their annual dues to the organization when they register for the meeting.  A Committee on Membership Dues and Student Travel Grants was formed to study the issue. [charge?]

# Mentoring Award

## 2014 October

Mentoring Award proposal:  Downey made a motion to approve the five-part proposal, including forming a standing committee.  Breslau seconded.  Downey asked for comments on the language of the proposal.  Moore questioned whether the mentoring award could be awarded to a group of people or is it limited to one person.  Downey said the committee did not discuss that issue.  Suchman added that she likes the idea.  All of our awards are currently directed to one winner.  Opening up the language for this award would provide an opportunity to award a group.  Suchman also suggested that the nomination process looks onerous.  Could the process be streamlined?  Moore supported this point, adding that other organizations have found that long nomination procedures limit diversity of nominees.  Moore suggested a five-page limit to the nomination.  Suchman suggested a two-page limit to the supporting letter along with three one-page letters from mentees.  Downey raised a question about other supporting documentation.  Downey suggested that the nomination include a two-page statement from the nominator and a maximum of three additional letters from mentees, each with a two-page limit.  Moore clarified that the “mentee” letters essentially refer to letters of support from others (e.g., a letter from a dean might be included).  Downey indicated that he would develop a final document, including suggested amendments, and take it to the Mentoring Award Committee.  The final proposal for Council vote will include these amendments.  Bustos questioned whether the nominating packet might include information about diversity.  Suchman recommended adding language to the proposal indicating that the Mentoring Award Committee will consider expanding diversity of STS by reaching new populations in its deliberations about award candidates.  After this discussion, Downey indicated that this proposal, with final language, would be voted on after the meeting.  A question was then raised about committee composition.  Downey indicated that the current committee will continue to serve through to the Denver meeting at which point he’ll set up a committee rotation.

## 2014 August

Leandro Rodríguez Medina reported that the committee has prepared a preliminary document recommending an award to a 4S scholar who excels as a mentor.  Council has approved a basic outline of the award and criteria to be used in selecting winners. The committee is now finalizing a proposal for Council approval.  Discussion: Kinchy questioned the potential overlap between a 4S Mentoring Award and a Building STS Award.  Kinchy recommended that the committees compare the two awards side-to-side as they become finalized.

Downey noted that Council has approved the basic outline of the award.  The committee will work on development of a final proposal to be considered by Council and the membership.

## 2014 March

Council considered some background documents from this committee.

Downey, in discussion with Committee chair Rajan, had asked the committee to consider developing a graduate student mentoring award. The Committee's draft charge authorizes it to define the actual scope of a potential award.

Rajan discussed the importance of mentoring to bringing graduate students into the field of STS.  He elicited ideas/concerns from Council that should be considered in the development of a formal proposal.  There are potential challenges due to cross-national discontinuities in mentoring expectations.  Also, STS is not a clearly defined field – e.g., like a subfield of a discipline.  There may be questions about the boundaries of the field that such an award would elicit.

Kinchy questioned restricting the acknowledgement of mentoring to graduate students.  Perhaps we should add undergraduates and junior faculty.

Moore agreed, encouraging the committee to broaden the notion of mentoring to include mentoring practices that are more prevalent outside EuroAmerica.

Kuo asked about teaching.  Rajan suggested that teaching can be considered a part of mentoring indirectly, but that it is difficult to establish criteria for quality teaching that would span the membership.

Kuo suggested advertising this award on the website in part by including relevant awardee-generated digital material.

Council asked the committee to submit a formal plan to be circulated among the membership prior to the 4S meeting in Buenos Aires.

 Charged February 2014; Kaushik Sunder Rajan (chair), Leandro Rodriguez Medina

# Other business

## 2015 November

Gary Downey announced the University of Wollongong’s decision to eliminate the STS program adding that this issue would be included in new business.  Council expressed concern about the decision.

Data Sharing in STS: John Parker of Arizona State University joined the meeting.  Gary Downey reviewed the history of Council’s approval of $15,000 for a group of 4S members to develop a data sharing plan for STS scholarship.  Parker indicated that the appointed committee members had obtained matching funding from NSF.  The committee has met and developed a report.  Parker reviewed some of the advantages of data sharing in STS for Council and added that the committee had also discussed data management plans.  Parker indicated that the committee still has $14.5K left in their budget and asked for Council recommendations on courses of action.  Kelly Moore suggested that the committee propose streams of sessions on data sharing and management at forthcoming 4S meetings.  Moore added that the committee should work to build a consensus within STS about the importance of this activity and recommended using *ESTS* as an avenue for debates and discussions about data sharing and management.  Lucy Suchman recommended that the committee raise questions about the constitution of data for discussion, noting that the issue involves ethics and context.  Abby Kinchy recommended holding workshops at annual meetings to go along with the panel sessions.  Claire Waterton mentioned the presence of a data archive in the UK and the need for compliance with archival requirements.  The committee might obtain information about procedures used there.  Shobita Parthasarathy brought up questions about intellectual property issues and suggested that the committee work through that as well.  Parthasarathy added that we should be engaging with junior scholars on these issues.

Downey concluded the discussion by indicating that the next step is for Parker to work with Suchman to develop an ad hoc committee to carry this work forward.  Parker will liaison with Council on progress.

Regarding the University of Wollongong situation, Downey indicated that the dean is proposing to eliminate the STS undergraduate major, which would likely include loss of staff.  Downey recommended that Council discuss and possibly respond to the Wollongong situation.  Lucy Suchman recommended that we express our concern, but questioned the appropriateness of 4S interventions in the actions of specific university administrations.

## 2014 August

Request for start-up funding for new journal Catalyst:

(This item was moved ahead of Old Business to accommodate prior scheduling arrangements with two Catalyst founders.)  Discussion of this agenda item was led by Kelly Moore.  Gary Downey recused himself due to potential conflict of interest.

Council received a request for funding support to help start the new journal Catalyst.  Martha Lampland and Christina Visperas attended the Council meeting to present the proposal and answer questions.  They noted that much work has gone into the design of the open access journal.  The request to 4S in 2014-2015 is for a one-time commitment of $6200, which would cover a webmaster ($4200) and copyeditor ($2000).  The proposal also includes an additional request for annual support of $3000, if such funding is available.  Most of the funding for the journal has been committed from university-based sources.  Discussion: Suchman asked about the relationship between the journal and 4S.  Specifically, would the journal be linked to 4S, and if so in what way?  Lampland and Visperas answered that the journal would contain a page that listed sources of support.  Ito asked why the current editorial board was restricted to the US and Canada.  Lampland and Visperas answered that the current editorial board consists of individuals who initially became involved and remain committed to the journal.  However, it is the intent of the editors to expand the board geographically.  Downey questioned the plan to initially publish an open access journal and then later move to a print journal.  Lampland and Visperas answered that they’ve talked with different potential publishers and pursued different options.  The initial decision was to pursue an open access route due to the success of neighboring journals such as Disability Studies.  However, in the future they would pursue print options to make the journal more attractive to younger scholars with the implications of printed versions for perceived quality.

After Lampland and Visperas answered Council questions and left the meeting, there was further discussion.  Downey reminded Council that last year we discontinued the New Initiative Program, but that there are options for pursuing proposals that advance the field.  Moore felt that Council needed a specific mechanism if it wished to fund this initiative.  Suchman pointed out as well that the proposal didn’t include any explicit mention of or connection to 4S.  As a consequence she suggested that Council faced two questions: one related to process (i.e., a mechanism to approve funding for unsolicited proposals from other organizations), and one related to fiscal stewardship (bearing in mind 4S’ other commitments, including the society’s pending open access journal).  Further discussion focused on both the lack of a funding mechanism and funds to support the initiative.  4S has other new ventures to support that are specifically tied to 4S.  Council agreed that the request should be turned down, but that other forms of support from 4S would be offered.  Downey asked the Publications Chair to develop a draft letter to send to Catalyst organizers.

## 2014 March

**General Issues and Third Rail Issues:**

The Council meeting concluded with discussion of general issues that had come up in Skype conversations between the President and Council members, as well as in member comments in poll results. Downey classified these into two categories, general issues and third rail issues. A metaphor drawn from subway systems powered by electricity, a third rail issue is one that, when you touch it, you die.

One general issue discussed was the increasing size of 4S meetings, which now have 20-32 parallel sessions.  In responding to the poll after San Diego, some members expressed a sense of isolation or general loss of solidarity.  Others expressed concerns about sessions of interest to them occurring at the same time. Council discussed the possibility introducing sections, akin to the American Sociological Association.  Pros and cons were raised and discussed.  No action was taken.

The second general issue was whether society dues should be graduated based upon salary/income. Discussion ensued.  It was recognized that the general dues for the organization are low and that costs to attend the annual meeting are high.  Questions also were raised about whether we desire more attendees at the annual meeting given its current size.  It was noted that there is overlap between dues and registration.  People often pay their annual dues to the organization when they register for the meeting.  A Committee on Membership Dues and Student Travel Grants was formed to study the issue.

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# Prizes

## 2015 November

Tania Pérez Bustos announced that the Mullins Prize Committee had received 21 papers.  Deliberations are ongoing.   Bustos also noted that there is very limited geographical distribution among the submitted papers.

Lucy Suchman indicated that she will follow the prior year’s practice of announcing awards on a month-by-month basis in *Technoscience*.   Committee chairs agreed that deliberations can be completed by 15 December.

Claire Waterton announced that the Carson Prize Committee received 60 books.  There are now two contenders for the prize.

Kelly Moore announced that the Fleck committee received 73 books.  They are close to a final decision.  Moore also noted that some nominated books would not have been sent by publishers without authors’ efforts to remind them.

Sulfikar Amir announced that the STS Making and Doing Committee received 82 proposals from 60 countries.  After review, they narrowed down acceptances to 70.  Since some of the proposals were actually paper submissions, the committee now expects 52 presentations.  The biggest challenge for the committee is to identify three winners out of the 52 presentations.  Amir added that the committee has in place a crowdsourcing option, with 40% of final decision based on attendee recommendations and 60% from the committee’s assessment.  Committee members will receive a private showing to facilitate their deliberations.

Downey announced that the Edge Committee had completed its work and the winner will be notified.

Downey announced that the 4S Mentoring Prize Committee has not produced a report.  Some questions have been raised by committee members about differences in the meaning of mentoring cross-nationally, which the committee is currently discussing.

Downey indicated that there has been some confusion about past membership on the Bernal Prize Committee.  A database of past committee members will be generated and located on the web to assist in institutional memory.  The membership of the committee has traditionally included the 4S president along with the current winner and other appointees.  Downey noted that he altered the formula for membership this year since the current winner did not express interest in participating.  Four people were appointed: Ulrike Felt (chair), Paul Edwards, Joan Fujimura, and Alan Irwin.  Suchman opened up the idea of enlisting Council to help form the Bernal Prize Committee.

## 2014 August

Downey brought up the issue of prize committee deliberation.  In the past, prize committees made final decisions at the annual prize committee dinner at the 4S meeting.  Members of Council agreed that the deliberation could extend beyond the annual meeting to facilitate further and more complete discussion.  The annual dinner now becomes a Council and Officers dinner rather than a prize committee dinner.

## 2014 March

Downey begins adding non-Council members to prize committees. Non-Council members on prize committees (per new governance procedures)

Appointment of Lisa Cartwright (UC San Diego) to Fleck prize committee

Appointment of Jessica Mesman (Maastricht U) to Carson prize committee

Appointment of Yuko Fujiyaki (U Tokyo) and Nelly Oudshoorn (U Twente) to Edge prize committee

Appointment of Samuel Tettner (6S rep; Mahindra United World College) to Mullins award committee

Bernal prize committee (includes 2014 winner and President; 3rd member not yet appointed)

The new governance structure approved in San Diego provides for the President to appoint non-Council members to the prize committees.  Downey has implemented this option by adding one non-Council member to each committee.

# Publications

## 2015 November

Kelly Moore indicated that rapid progress is being made on the Handbook.  Moore expects the Handbook to be innovative and outstanding.  There will be an option to order the Handbook with registration at Barcelona.  MIT will also offer an option for purchasing and downloading individual chapters for those who do not wish to purchase the full volume.  Moore indicated that she will work further on marketing the book.

Moore reported that the citations ranking for *ST&HV* is rising.  The rate of acceptance is currently about 20% of submissions.  Overall, the journal is doing very well.

*ESTS* is enjoying a successful start.  Moore indicated that there are several ways for people to contribute to the journal.  Contributions from senior people are especially important for its success.  Plans are also underway to apply to gain access to the *Social Science Citation Index*.

Moore recommended that additional members be added to the Publications Committee due to its expanded work demands.  Moore also reminded Council that Katie Vann has an increased workload and proposed that we increase her wages.  Moore also recommended that Daniel Kleinman be added to the Publications Committee.

## 2015 August

Kelly Moore indicated that the Handbook contract is moving forward with MIT and is in the process of being signed.  Moore noted that the submission to publisher date has been moved to 1 February 2016.  The Handbook won’t be ready for the Barcelona meeting, but can be advertised then.

Moore reviewed the report from ST&HV.  The number of pages per issue has been increased to 200 and there is ongoing discussion about increasing the number of issues per volume from six to eight.  Moore added that this change may have an effect on journal rates.  There may be an increase in the library rate, but the rate for private subscriptions is not yet clear.  Moore also announced that the price of super gold access (price charged authors for open on-line access to their article) has increased from $1500 to $3000.  Five authors paid this fee in the past year.  Moore indicated that the journal receives a large number of submissions.  Moore also added that there is a problem with the quality of Sage’s outsourced editing, which means that the editor and managing editor do most of it in-house.  This issue may be worth building into future negotiations with Sage.

Engaging Science, Technology, and Society: Moore indicated that submissions to ESTS have been slow.  The journal does not yet have a digital object identifier.  However, work is underway to get an issue out this fall.  Downey noted that there will be a journal launch event at the opening reception.  Moore asked Council to send her ideas for increasing the visibility of the journal.

Moore also announced that ST&HV is removed from the consortium focused on bundling on-line journals to reduce costs, but that 4S will still be participating and helping the consortium.

## 2015 March

Publications Committee Report: Kelly Moore led discussion.  Moore announced that Ed Hackett has negotiated with Sage for additional pages in ST&HV.  Negotiations also are ongoing to increase the number of annual issues to eight starting in 2017.  Moore noted that adding pages will increase the workload, which may require us to reconsider annual compensation for the editor and managing editor.  Also, we may need to reconsider our contract with Sage.  Discussion between Moore and Lucy Suchman ensued about the current rate of compensation for the editor and managing editor.  Suchman suggested that we obtain comparative information from other journals.  Gary Downey indicated that, in principle, he favors increasing compensation for the managing editor as the workload increases.  Downey also noted the inequity between the resources and work the society commits to the journal and what it receives from Sage.  The contract renewal time with Sage will be an appropriate point to seek an increase in compensation.  Suchman added that there is need to develop a sustainable model for workload and compensation for the managing editor.  Wes Shrum added that the overall workload is related more to manuscripts received rather than the number of journal pages.  Shrum also noted that the costs of the journal to the society are due largely to hard copy production and distribution.  Perhaps we should move to on-line only journal distribution?  Downey clarified that the workload per manuscript increases as it approaches publication, so increased pages and annual number of issues would increase workload independently of the total number of manuscripts received.  No action was taken by Council on this issue.  The idea of moving to on-line only or an on-line option for member subscriptions will be discussed further, both within Council and with Sage.

Kelly Moore also sought feedback about the balance between special issues and regular issues in ST&HV.  In response, Downey indicated that Council had recommended some years ago that ST&HV publish no more than two special issues per year, but such is always at the discretion of the editor.  There was no further discussion on this issue.

Kelly Moore encouraged submissions to Engaging Science, Technology & Society.  Moore informed Council that funds have been requested for a reception to launch the new journal at the Denver 4S meeting.  Moore noted that it would be too expensive to open it up to everyone, so perhaps it could be limited to managing editors.  Lucy Suchman preferred that we open it up to everyone, with a cash bar to reduce costs.  Gary Downey indicated that he encouraged a larger event, but a smaller one had been recommended by journal staff.  Daniel Breslau said that the event would have to be Thursday evening due to events scheduled for all other evenings.  Suchman suggested that the journal launch could be incorporated into the opening welcome reception to encourage attendance and increase visibility.  Council members expressed preference for this last idea and it was decided to move in this direction.

## 2014 August

Kelly Moore reported on the development of the STS Handbook.  The editors have nearly completed the table of contents from revised abstracts and are contacting authors to commission chapters.  Moore Reported that over the past year she has had concerns about the organization and timeliness of the Handbook process, in particular, with respect to communication with authors and among editors.. Moore and Downey expressed concern about short gap between the time when penultimate chapters are due and the expected return of comments to authors. Moore noted the tight timeline this coming year.  Miller agreed to produce and share with Downey and Moore a spreadsheet to help keep track of manuscripts and correspondence during the review process. The goal is to keep the Handbook on schedule for a 2016 publication.

Moore reviewed the ST&HV report submitted by Edward Hackett and Katie Vann.  The journal is doing exceptionally well.  Submissions have increased to the point where the editor has concerns about a high rejection rate.  The possibility of increasing number of pages per volume was discussed in the Publications Committee meeting.  The Publications Committee recommended that a request for additional pages from Sage be put off for one year to evaluate the potential impact of the new open access journal, which may reduce the submission rate to ST&HV. [Note: following conversations subsequent to the meeting, Council will be reconsidering this request.]

Moore reported that Sage is increasingly asking contributors to pay for publication in open access journals.  The Publications Committee reiterated its position that this practice is unacceptable for 4S members.

Moore reported on data management concerns raised by Ed Hackett, editor of ST&HV.  Hackett questioned whether the 4S website could provide a place and space for archiving data published in ST&HV articles.  No action was taken by Council on this issue.

Moore reported that Daniel Kleinman has agreed to edit the new open access journal.   By 1 September 2014, Kleinman will nominate a journal title for Council consideration.  In the meantime, Kleinman requests ideas from 4S members.  By 1 December 2014, Kleinman will form an editorial team.  Katie Vann has agreed to serve as Managing Editor.  Discussion: Amir questioned the possibility of content in multiple languages.  Moore reported that this issue was discussed in the Publications Committee, but it will not be pursued in the shortrun.  It may be revisited in the future. Moore indicated that a title needs to be determined quickly to facilitate design work.  Kinchy suggested that Kleinman develop several options for Council’s consideration.  Moore requested that Council members submit suggestions to her by Monday (25 August), which she will relay to Kleinman.

## 2014 March

**Handbook Update:**  Zehr and Moore discussed updates in progress on the handbook.  A table of contents has been produced and reviewed by the Handbook Committee.  Handbook editors are at the point of contacting contributing authors.  Some members emphasized the importance of internationalizing authorship to a maximum extent. Some concern was expressed about falling behind the proposed schedule (e.g., delayed contact of authors might set the schedule back).

# Publications – Digital Publications

## 2014 October

The Digital Publications Work Group has been hard at work.  Daniel Breslau reported that the interface of the 4S website is being redesigned.  Current work is focused on the development of a blog.  The blog will provide an outlet for alternative formatted items relevant to 4S.  This format will include a visual or audio dimension.  A call for materials has been sent out.  The goal is to have several pieces of content ready by 1 December.  The Work Group is uncertain about the title of the blog.  Two titles -- “Coordinates” and “Back Channels” have been proposed.  Breslau requested Council reaction to these proposed titles. Downey will also seek comments from the membership in his November President’s message.

## 2014 August

Wen-Hua Kuo reported that the subcommittee has developed ideas for 4S website development.  A starting point is to add a new blog that would be initially driven by graduate student submissions.  Subcommittee members will meet with 6S to stimulate involvement and encourages Council members to involve their graduate students.  Subcommittee member Kinchy added that the blog would be used to initially generate content for the website in line with the goals of making it more data rich and improving its overall appearance and utility.  Discussion: Amir asked whether the website would have the capacity to include descriptions of Making and Doing activities to be presented at annual meetings.  Parthasarathy suggested that advanced 4S scholars also write blogs to increase traffic at the website.  Bier added that the site provides an opportunity for responses to others’ content.  As a means for generating more student involvement in website content, Downey appointed Parthasarathy to serve as liaison with the 6S, to work on this and other issues.

## 2014 March

Council was joined by Subcommittee member Ali Kenner via Skype for this agenda item.

Downey reviewed the substantial amount of work the Digital Publications Subcommittee had accomplished to date, beginning prior to the 2012 Copenhagen meeting. He also reviewed Council's decision in San Diego to develop an open-access journal and associated digital publications.

Subcommittee discussions prior to the Council meeting built in particular on a poll of the membership and a background report that Kinchy prepared on the process through which the Society for Cultural Anthropology made its journal open access and developed a range of digital publications., Kuo led the preparation of a background report to guide Council discussion.

Kuo discussed an Open Journal System (OJS) platform for a digital journal.  The initial cost for site development would be US $10,000, with expenses totaling approximately US $30,000 annually ($27,000 for managing editor and $3,000 for site hosting).  Katie Vann, widely-respected Managing Editor of ST&HV and member of the Digital Publications Subcommittee, had offered to build the site, serve as Managing Editor for the open access journal, and, time-permitting, support other digital publications 4S chose to produce.

Kuo also indicated that 4S recently received a proposal from Sage to collaborate in developing an open access journal that would publish STS and history & philosophy of science work together.  Kuo noted that the proposal includes a US $695 article processing charge (APC) paid by authors to cover journal expenses.  Any financial benefits would be shared between 4S and Sage, and Sage would pay a £2000 fee to the editor.  Kuo noted that the APC price is negotiable, but anticipated that it likely would remain very high.  He reviewed the main benefits of the Sage proposal, including rapid start-up, publicity through established practices, and Sage help in seeking indexing for the journal. A Sage-run journal would, however, be owned by Sage rather than 4S.

Council discussion of the Sage proposal ensued, focusing on the high APC, including in-principle objections to charging authors for publications.

Moore summarized concerns about the likely costs 4S will face in running its own open-access journal, the in-house expertise required, and whether the journal would attract a strong editor and quality content.  Moore suggested that Council discuss the Sage proposal and make a yes or no decision, taking care to ensure that if 4S goes it alone, we do not foreclose the possibility of working with Sage in the future.

A question was raised about the proposed journal’s relationship to ST&HV and SSS. It was noted that editors of these journals are confident in the utility of an additional stand-alone journal and do not perceive it as a direct competitor.

Kinchy reminded Council that a 4S-owned, peer-reviewed open access journal could also be linked to a platform for other digital materials.  These are two separate objectives, but could complement one another. The laundry list of potential digital publication is long, including *inter alia*blogs, podcasts, teaching materials, 4S reports and position statements, curated contents, interviews with authors and awardees, reflections on current events, archives of *Technoscience Update*, archives of Council minutes and other documents, repositories of other digital contents, and links to other digital publications relevant to STS.

Kenner noted that we are considering two distinct platforms but have formulated only one budget.  She raised the question of technology support or a web developer who could support the full development and integration of the two platforms.  Kenner said that we can use OJS in the meantime and that everything we need for a digital journal would be provided.  However, other digital materials would be difficult to support by OJS.  Only a very good tech person would be able to make a variety of digital materials available on OJS.

Because of financial uncertainties associated with the Buenos Aires meeting and design uncertainties about additional digital publications, Downey suggested we use the current website until at least the 2015 Denver meeting.  Hopefully by that point both sets of uncertainties would be reduced. In the meantime, we can begin building the open access journal and taking initial steps to organize the production of additional digital publications.

Kuo questioned whether a committed budget of $30K per year and $10K for initial development is sufficient.  Kenner asserted that $10K is more than enough to start up a journal on OJS.  Kenner also noted, however, that annual costs can be higher than expected, especially for publications beyond an open access journal. Moore questioned Kenner about potential cost overruns based on her experience as Managing Editor for the Society for Cultural Anthropology.  Kenner said that *Cultural Anthropology* built a customized platform, which generated overruns.  Such would not be necessary now.  Starting with an established platform will reduce cost unknowns.

Kenner recommended that 4S consider collaborating with a university library and possibly a university publisher.  Both are looking for partnerships with academic organizations that are going on their own with journal development.

A question was raised about technical support provided by a university host. It depends on the nature of the problem.  A university provides technical support for its own infrastructure but not for design work.  Kenner noted that OJS is clunky and not user friendly, but it is very stable.  If 4S established a hosting agreement with a university library, hosting of everything associated with OJS would likely be free.

Downey reported that Katie Vann had expressed a willingness to do the copy-editing for the open access journal.  He also raised the question of getting a new journal accepted by the Science Citation Index.  Someone will have to take the lead on that process.  There are also the questions of publicity and promotion, which will likely bring additional costs.

Council also discussed developing an evaluation process to be undertaken in two years. There should also be an escape strategy if the journal appears not to be succeeding.  The Treasurer agreed to monitor the finances closely.  The Digital Publications Subcommittee will consider developing an evaluation process.

Kinchy made a motion that we reject the Sage offer.  Rodriguez Medina seconded.  Discussion focused on the main concern, which is the proposed APC charge.  Council felt that it would be too expensive for many prospective contributors.  However, rejecting Sage means that we need to make connections to other organizations – e.g., connection to a university library.  Kenner was in favor of connecting to a university library as a matter of principle to mutually support university libraries while cutting out corporate intermediaries. The motion passed unanimously.

Downey agreed to contact the Sage both to inform her of Council's decision and to maintain an open collaborate relationship.  [Note: A positive, lengthy conversation took place after the meeting, including discussion of possible ways to collaborate, and ending with the Sage editor asserting, "The door is always open."]

Downey proposed that Kinchy work with Vann on the development of a journal.  Kuo volunteered to work both with Kinchy and Vann on the journal and with Kenner on the development of additional digital materials.

The 4S Publications Committee is charged, by charter, to seek out nominations for editor of the proposed journal and make a recommendation to Council.

# Reports and Resolutions

## 2015 November

Vivian Lagesen indicated that there has been minimal activity in the past year, but expects a submitted resolution from 4S members in the near future.

## 2015 March

Resolution on Teaching Evolution: Gary Downey proposed that we use the new threaded discussion tool at the website to discuss the Resolution under consideration by the Society.  All voting members of Council will consider the Resolution, except for one Council member who has a conflict of interest.

## 2014 August

Vivian Lagesen reported that the committee has received one proposal for a resolution, which is currently being reviewed by committee members.

## 2014 March

Downey reviewed the charge and discussed the motivation behind the development of the committee. Downey drew on his experience a decade ago working with Hugh Gusterson and Jane Summerton to produce a report and resolution on U.S. immigration policy after 9/11.  That report and resolution had been commissioned by Council and remain at the 4S website.  Downey seeks a system that would invite 4S members to initiate the development of reports and resolutions that would be vetted by the membership and voted on by Council.  He noted that Council has in hand a proposed "position statement" submitted by a group of members.

Committee chair Lagesen identified several key issues facing the committee including length, how deeply reports and resolutions should be steeped in STS literature, and whether 4S should fund workshops for the development of position papers.

Lagesen noted that the committee also discussed visibility – e.g., giving space for presentation at the annual meeting.  Downey suggested that the burden should be placed on authors to publicize and communicate the position.

Kuo mentioned the possible need for different guidelines for different types of statements and reports.

The committee and Council discussed two models for the 4S to issue reports and statements.  In the first model, members would submit proposed reports or statement for consideration by the committee and the membership, with Council making final decisions to accept the proposed document or not.  The other is similar to the immigration report and resolution. In that case, members would submit ideas for a report or statement, and Council would consider forming an ad-hoc task force to develop it.

Following a breakout session, Council discussed a stripped-down proposed document to address the proposed position statement currently in hand.  Under the pressure of time, Council approved the proposed document without significant discussion and directed the committee to continue developing a complete proposal for consideration by Council following input from the membership.

[Note: shortly after the Council meeting, the committee reported substantial concerns about 4S producing "position statements" in particular.  After further discussion among Council members, the committee changed its name to the Committee on Reports and Resolutions, agreed to revise the document considered at the end of the Council meeting, and lead subsequent Council discussion of a revision focused on reports and resolutions.   Membership comments may be solicited prior to the Buenos Aires meeting.]

 Vivian Lagesen (chair), Wen-Hua Kuo, Wes Shrum

 Charged February.

**Public Engagement Committee:** Downey proposed eliminating the Public Engagement Committee as a consequence of developing the new Reports and Position Statements Committee.  Downey pointed out that the mission of the Public Engagement Committee was unclear, with activities now covered by the Reports and Position Statements Committee. Downey moved to eliminate this committee.  Ito seconded.  No discussion.  The motion passed unanimously.

# Social Media

## 2015 August

Daniel Breslau announced that the social media presence of the society will be developed after the forthcoming meetings.  Breslau asked Council for recommendations of students who might be interested in serving in its development.

# *ST&HV*

## August 2014

Downey, on behalf of Kelly Moore, proposed that Council award Edward Hackett an annual stipend for his work as editor of ST&HV.  To offset this compensation, Downey noted that 4S will receive an additional $7000 annually from Sage.  Discussion: Suchman expressed support for the idea of a stipend.  The question is the amount.  There was brief discussion about the amount.  Pinch suggested that since the journal generates annual profit for Sage of $225,000, perhaps we should request more than $7000.  Downey indicated that the contract with Sage will be renegotiated in a couple of years, which will provide an opportunity to increase our request.  Moore motioned that the editors of both ST&HV and the new open access journal be paid an annual stipend of $5000.  Kinchy seconded the motion.  The motion passed Council unanimously.

# Student Affairs / 6S

## 2015 November

Bryn Whiteley reported that 6S officers now serve 3-year terms to increase continuity.  6S has started an initiative to support graduate student conferences.  The first conference was the graduate student STGlobal Conference held in Washington, DC.  There was good representation of 4S members at the conference.  6S supported several activities at the conference involving professional development and social activities.

## 2015 March

6S Charter: Shobita Parthasarathy led discussion.  Parthasarathy asked for comments on proposed changes to the 6S Charter.  There are two key changes.  One is to elect rather than appoint 6S representatives and the other is to extend the commitment from two to three years.  Parthasarathy noted that additional duties would be required of elected 6S representatives.  There was no further discussion on the proposal.  Parthasarathy made a motion to approve.  Downey seconded.  A vote will occur after the meeting.  [A subsequent Council vote approved changes to the charter.]

## 2014 August

Jess Bier reminded Council that leadership composition in 6S had been changed to increase continuity.  The 6S Council now includes four full members on 2-year rotations.  6S is working to increase international access to important STS events by recording lectures of prominent and upcoming STS scholars and making them available on line.  6S Council member Bryn Whiteley is helping organize the STGlobal event in Washington, DC and is investigating the possibility of videotaping lectures and creating a digital archive.  Bier also reported that 6S is inclusive of STS scholars outside the normal trajectory of the academy.

Downey reported that new Council member Shobita Parthasarathy (who started 6S as a graduate student) will serve as liaison to 6S.

## 2014 March

Downey announces that 6S members moving to produce video content for 4S website

Jess Bier (2nd-year 6S rep) organizing video production for Dutch WTMC, April and July; Bryn Whiteley (1st-year 6S rep) organizing video for STGlobal, Washington D.C., April

# Technoscience

## 2015 March

Technoscience in multiple languages:  Tania Pérez-Bustos led discussion.  Pérez-Bustos suggested that items appearing in a non-English language in 4S web venues (e.g., Technoscience, Backchannels) be accompanied with a brief summary in English.  Council had no objections to this recommendation. The new Web Committee will have authority to implement.

# Travel Grants

## 2015 November

Paige Miller reported that 4S received $10K from NSF and $5K from the Asian fund to support graduate student travel to the annual meeting.  The committee received 115 proposals; 29 grants were offered; 25 grants were accepted.  Council members expressed some concern about the transparency in the decision-making process.  Apparently, some complaints have been received by those who were rejected.  Committee members will work on increasing transparency in the future.

## 2015 March

Gary Downey announced that Kaushik Sunder-Rajan has agreed to chair the student travel grants committee this year.  Sunder-Rajan’s committee will work on increasing transparency in criteria for decision-making. [Downey subsequently appointed Moore to co-chair the committee.]

## 2014 August

Paige Miller reported that 4S received 75 applications for travel grants.  We offered 34 grants; 31 attendees were funded.  Discussion: Moore asked what criteria were used to evaluate grant applications, and suggested that criteria be made available in advance to students.  Downey indicated he will establish a committee to formalize and publicize evaluation criteria for future travel grants.

# Web & Website

## 2015 November

Abby Kinchy described efforts of the committee to develop the 4S website and social media presence.  Kinchy asked Council for input on updating the “resources” link on the website.  Kinchy recommended adding another member to the web committee to take on this task.  Downey noted that the committee chair has the power to reconstitute the committee to achieve its goals.  Council members suggested adding more students in web development in exchange for annual meeting registration waivers.   Shobita Parthasarathy questioned the linkage between web work and meeting registration, noting that there could be complexities in this coupling.  Parthasarathy also recommended decoupling the recruitment of students for web work from 6S.  Parthasarathy added that Tania Pérez Bustos and Jennifer Henderson have recruited many people to contribute to *Backchannels*, but it is not yet well-read and there have been relatively few comments on content.  Parthasarathy suggested that we recruit chapter authors from the forthcoming Handbook to contribute to the blog and generate excitement about their work.  John Lunsford mentioned several other methods for increasing traffic at the blog site.

## 2015 August

Stephen Zehr indicated that two resources at the website – films and syllabi -- are out of date.  Abby Kinchy suggested that the Web Committee might add this item to its agenda, but since other members are focused on the blog, they may need to take another person on board.  Gary Downey suggested further discussion of this issue after the meeting.

## 2015 March

Formation of standing 4S Web Committee:  Wen-Hua Kuo led discussion.  The recommendation is to form a standing 4S Web Committee out of the 4S Digital Publications Subcommittee.  Kuo made a motion to approve.  Lucy Suchman seconded.  Kuo noted that the proposal recommends four new positions: 4S Digital Publication Committee Chair, Web Content Editor, Backchannel Editors (two), and Social Media Editor.  The proposal lists the duties of each.  Suchman asked for clarification about the positions and whether appointees would be compensated.  Gary Downey clarified that the key issue before Council is the formation of a standing committee.  If approved, issues of appointment and compensation could be handled by the President and Council based on decisions about workload and other relevant issues.  Downey proposed three amendments: (1) add the position of “Web Design Editor”; (2) allow the President, in consultation with the committee chair, to modify the position titles for members over time and as appropriate; and (3) establish a routine in which a committee chair appointed by the President recommends the other committee appointments, to help ensure strong working relationships within the committee. Kuo asked about the start date for these new positions.  Downey indicated that there needs to be flexibility on the start date.  The formation of a standing 4S Web Committee was approved unanimously.

## 2014 August

Downey reported that there would be some additional expenses for the initiation of new digital practices.  Much of the work would be completed with existing resources, however, additional expenses would come from software purchases and Steve Coffee’s labor.  Moore motioned that we approve up to $3000 for expenditures related to updating the website.  Kinchy seconded the motion.  The motion was passed unanimously.

## 2014 March

Downey gave an update on website changes and expressed a desire to increase the amount of information Council shares with members via the website.  The purpose is to help build a stronger sense of commitment to and stake in Society actions from its members.  Once a plan is in place, Council will consider committing resources to development of website contents.